

WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Conference Center
Fairbanks, Alaska
February 22, 2017
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman
Fred Alexie
Shirley Clark
Ray Collins
Timothy Gervais
Don Honea (Telephonic)
Jenny Pelkola
Pollock Simon
Dennis Thomas
Darrel Vent

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 02/22/2017)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're bringing the meeting to order. I hear people on the conference call. I'd like to see who is on the call. Could you state your name.

MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair. This is Jeff Estensen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fall Season Manager for the Yukon Area CommFish.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Jeff.

MR. SUMMERS: Good morning. This is Clarence Summers with the National Park Service.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Clarence.

MS. CARROLL: Good morning. This is Holly Carroll, the Fish and Game Summer Season Manager and Biologist for the Yukon River, here in Anchorage. Good morning.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Holly. Good morning.

Anybody else.

MR. REAM: Good morning. This is Joshua Ream, Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good morning, Joshua.

Anyone else.

Okay. We've got four people on the phone. And so we had put on our agenda that we would have the election for this Regional Council. Unfortunately, Ray Collins had a health issue last night and had to leave. He went back to Anchorage. He's going home. And I had dinner with him. He was

1 feeling -- as you could see, he's weak. He had a --
2 had an event and so he had to go home. But we've got
3 most of the Council, except for Don Honea.

4
5 Are you on the phone, Don. I just
6 heard another beep.

7
8 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I am. Good morning,
9 all.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good to hear
12 you on the phone because we're coming up for elections.
13 And.....

14
15 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I switched this
18 over to the DFO, Zach, since he will run the election.
19 So handing the gavel over.

20
21 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 First on the agenda is the election of
24 the Chair. I would like to take a moment to provide an
25 opportunity for the RAC to cast their vote for the
26 Chair.

27
28 MS. PELKOLA: Somebody has to do a
29 nomination.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Correct. So we'll
32 begin with nominations.

33
34 MS. PELKOLA: I'll nominate Jack.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Could you please speak
37 into the microphone.

38
39 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, sorry. Good morning,
40 everybody. I'll nominate Jack.

41
42 MR. ALEXIE: Second.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: So I hear a nomination
45 for Jack from Jenny and a second from Fred.

46
47 MR. VENT: Close the nominations.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Darrel.

50

1 We'll close the nominations.

2

3 MR. ALEXIE: Second.

4

5 MR. STEVENSON: Second from Fred.

6

7 Hearing no objections, we have Jack as
8 the Chair. And I will turn the floor over to the Chair
9 for the nomination of the Vice Chair and the nomination
10 of the Secretary.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 MR. ALEXIE: Don't we have to vote?
15 Don't we have to vote?

16

17 MS. PELKOLA: There was no objection.

18

19 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah. We heard no
20 objections, Fred.

21

22 MR. ALEXIE: Oh, okay. Okay.

23

24 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah.

25

26 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. I didn't hear that.
27 Okay.

28

29 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate
32 your confidence. And I'll try and keep working hard
33 for this Council.

34

35 And so we open the floor for
36 nominations for Vice Chair. And Ray has been Vice
37 Chair, but his health is failing and -- I had dinner
38 with Ray last night, he says he contemplated resigning,
39 but he says if he can teleconference into the meeting
40 he might serve out -- he might continue to serve. So
41 he's -- his health is on the fence sort of.

42

43 So -- but the floor is open for
44 nomination for Vice Chair.

45

46 Fred.

47

48 MR. ALEXIE: I nominate Darrel.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel. Got an.....
2
3 MR. THOMAS: Nominate who?
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.
6
7 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other
10 nominations for Vice Chair.
11
12 MR. ALEXIE: I move that nominations be
13 closed.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have a second to
16 that.
17
18 MR. THOMAS: Second.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Dennis.
21 And so nominations are closed. Is that agreeable to
22 the Council. Seeing.....
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing affirmative.
27 Welcome as Vice Chair, Darrel.
28
29 We need a Secretary for this Council.
30 And so floor's open for nomination of Secretary.
31
32 MR. ALEXIE: I nominate Jenny.
33
34 MR. VENT: I second.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other
37 nominations.
38
39 MR. ALEXIE: I move that nominations be
40 closed.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second.
43
44
45 MR. THOMAS: I second that one, too.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second, Dennis. All
48 right.
49
50

1 Thank you for serving as Secretary,
2 Jenny.

3
4 MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Just on point of order,
9 we have not received any notification from Mr. Collins
10 about whether or not he was still going to continue his
11 service as Vice Chair. And I'm wondering procedurally
12 if we would need to clarify in writing whether or not
13 he is stepping down from his position before taking the
14 election of the Vice Chair. I would benefit from some
15 guidance from leadership on what the proper procedure
16 is regarding that protocol.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I was -- I
19 gave an overview of Ray's health issues and his
20 personal communication to me that he -- he's -- was
21 unsure if he could -- would be able to physically
22 continue to serve on the Council. He says he wants to
23 and he's a very valuable Council member. And so I put
24 that out and so the -- the Council didn't nominate Ray.
25 He still will be a valuable Council member if he can
26 continue and I would encourage him to continue to serve
27 if he can participate telephonically.

28
29 MR. STEVENSON: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Which is a -- I've
32 had to participate telephonically and basically you
33 have about ten percent effectiveness because you can't
34 read what anybody's thinking. But for this Council
35 that's not nearly as hard as the Federal Board
36 meetings. I have no idea what's going on with the
37 Federal Board. I can't tell -- see -- tell what the
38 Board members and people that are going to make
39 decisions -- but for this Council I think Ray can be --
40 still be a valuable Council member if he can physically
41 serve. And he's unsure about that.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what he was
46 telling me last night. So is that procedural? And so
47 that looks affirmative.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have our
2 elections out of the way. We have public and tribal
3 comments every morning, so PJ Simon -- Pollock Simon,
4 Junior is here and he would like to speak to the
5 Council on an issue.

6
7 Come up to the mic there. Push the
8 button and speak into the mic. And state your name for
9 the record. And this will all be transcribed. It will
10 be -- you can get a transcript of this meeting. Go
11 ahead, PJ.

12
13 MR. SIMON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
14 Good morning, Members of the Board. My name is PJ
15 Simon. I'm Chief of Allakaket, a Tribe of 330 tribal
16 members in the Southern Foothills of the Brooks Range.

17
18
19 And today my testimony is about the
20 preservation of our caribou and dall sheep populations
21 because our Tribe is against the conveyance of the 5150
22 Utility Corridor lands up there along the Haul Road,
23 from the Yukon River bridge to Coldfoot.

24
25 My Tribe has gotten along very well
26 with the existing guides and the air transporters all
27 these years out of Evansville and out of Wiseman.
28 We've had a good working relationship. And to open
29 this utility to the public to make it State land is
30 going to detriment the flora and fauna along the Haul
31 Road because that will be open to ATV and rifles for
32 hunting of all the game that is up there.

33
34 We have the dall sheep up there this
35 side of Coldfoot. We have Doyon Limited lands. And
36 also we've got State lands that has dall sheep. Dall
37 sheep is our food. We've been hunting it for as long
38 as we can remember. And that's an important food
39 source.

40
41 Also, the three caribou herds that
42 migrate along there, Teshekpuk, the Central Arctic
43 herd, and the Western Arctic herd are important food
44 source. Especially now with the advent of climate
45 change and the unknowns of whether it rains. Three,
46 four years ago it rained three times in the winter. We
47 lost 30 percent of our dall sheep in the Gates of the
48 Arctic National Park and Preserve. The population went
49 from 10,000 animals to 7,000. And recruitment was low

50

1 for a few years because of late springs, because of the
2 green up didn't happen in time and other -- other
3 elements like not -- the breakup getting late in May.

4
5 So with more hunting pressure, Mr.
6 Chair and Members of the Board, the Southern Foothills
7 of the Brooks Range would -- all the populations of
8 animals would be severely suppressed by hunting. And I
9 say that because we've got a very good working
10 relationship right now with the tribes and existing air
11 guides.

12
13 And mining would provide pollution to
14 our salmon. We have 15 percent of the Yukon River chum
15 run right above Allakaket. And that means 15 out of
16 100 salmon passing the Yukon River mouth is going up
17 there above Allakaket. And that's not counting the
18 South Fork River and the Jim River. Important spawning
19 grounds.

20
21 Since we have the demise of the Yukon
22 River chinook, the Jim River right along the Haul Road
23 and the South Fork are important spawning grounds for
24 our chinook salmon. But also the caribou. We've got a
25 good balance, Mr. Chair.

26
27 And last week I was in D.C. I talked
28 to the Alaska Delegation. Tried to get a meeting with
29 the newly vetted Department of Interior Secretary, Ryan
30 Zinke, to invite him up to Kanuti to see the flora and
31 fauna of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

32
33 So like I said, Mr. Chair, our Tribe is
34 against the conveyance. In 1971, with the Public Land
35 Order, our village corporation or even our sister --
36 mother corporation, Doyon Limited, could have chose
37 these lands, but we were barred from getting these BLM
38 lands. And the way we look at it, up there in the
39 Southern Foothills of the Brooks Range is -- that's the
40 lungs of the planet. That's the last place on earth
41 where you can hunt sheep, caribou, moose, grizzly bear,
42 black bear. That's the last place.

43
44 We've got hunters and anglers who go
45 hunt there already. Bow hunters who enjoy the solitude
46 and confinement of one-on-one hunting. We've got the
47 air taxi operators that are operating out of there,
48 along with the guides. There's enough users right now,
49 Mr. Chair and Members of the Board, that opening --
50

1 opening this corridor would just have further
2 congestion along the already congested area.

3
4 And to us the resources out there are
5 renewable. The biological goal to us, along with food
6 and clothing for our Native people back there. Like I
7 said, Mr. Chair, we see floaters and recreationals from
8 all over the world up there in Allakaket who float the
9 Koyukuk River and the Alatna River. We have no problem
10 with them. But when it comes to competing for
11 resources that are renewable and they get suppressed
12 with climate change and however else, we can have -- we
13 can have a lot of problems very fast.

14
15 And again I'll say we've got a great
16 working relationship with the air guides, the air taxi
17 operators, the recreationalists. So let's keep it how
18 it is. That's what our Tribe is for. And on behalf of
19 the 330 tribal members, we have a rich history of
20 hunting the Brooks Range caribou, moose, grizzly bear,
21 black bear. And that's where we live.

22
23 Mr. Chair, that's all my comments.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
26 those comments. I wanted to state that Allakaket,
27 Alatna, Bettles, Evansville have customary and
28 traditional use into the Utility Corridor BLM lands.
29 Those are part of the Federal subsistence use areas
30 that are available for people of Allakaket, Alatna,
31 Bettles, Evansville can utilize those lands -- and have
32 historically used those lands.

33
34 With State conveyance there would be a
35 complete exclusion of Federal subsistence priority.
36 There would be a complete loss to my community and your
37 communities of Federal priority uses of the Federal
38 lands.

39
40 As you stated, the compatible uses of
41 sport uses and the subsistence uses, the perception is
42 that there's a user conflict. No. We have a drawing
43 permit for the sporthunters in the Utility Corridor.
44 We have subsistence hunting. We're working very well
45 currently together with the two systems.

46
47 State lands would exclude all
48 subsistence use and it would be managed -- I've been
49 told by Region 3 in 1982 when we tried to get a Federal
50

1 subsistence hunt for our community that no. They
2 laughed in my face. The State of Alaska Subsistence
3 Division head in Fairbanks telling me that is
4 designated as a sporthunting utility area and utility
5 area and we will never have subsistence priority. And
6 the State has been opposed to any kind of subsistence
7 use in the Dalton Highway Corridor. And if they
8 achieved conveyance of the land, your community, my
9 community all would lose the Federal subsistence
10 priority.

11

12 And I am highly opposed.

13

14 And I gave you the reasons that this
15 Council adopted that comment to the Bureau of Land
16 Management, that I don't feel that it's legal for the
17 BLM to even contemplate conveying those lands because
18 Native Corporations -- it's unconscionable that Native
19 Corporations were excluded from selecting the Central
20 Brooks Range.

21

22 The BLM had the opportunity. They
23 discovered oil in 1968. They knew there was going to
24 be a pipeline come down through the Central Brooks
25 Range. They could have selected the entire Central
26 Brooks Range previous to 1971. They didn't do it.
27 Well, hindsight's 20/20. They should have. But too
28 bad.

29

30 They are 20 percent over selected right
31 now. The BLM told us that there's about 18 million
32 acres that they're over selected right this minute.
33 There's no -- no legal -- no reason to convey those
34 lands to the State of Alaska.

35

36 And so I would speak more of the
37 subsistence losses to our communities also. And so I
38 wanted to state that on the record. And I really,
39 really appreciate your comments. And I would like
40 these comments -- since the BLM -- we don't have
41 anybody here from this office. Oh, we do. Erin.
42 There she is.

43

44 I want those transcribed comments put
45 into the BLM's comments on the RMP that PJ just gave.
46 And those are -- will all be transcribed on the record
47 and you can obtain those.

48

49 Your response, PJ.

50

1 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2
3 And we look at the Southern Brooks
4 Range as our livelihood. We've gotten along well with
5 everybody. Let's just keep saying that again. Hammer
6 that home. Because any more congestion is going to
7 affect the existing populations.

8
9 Our Corporation was barred from picking
10 these lands in 1971. They said no. These are
11 traditional homelands. My grandfather lived in the Jim
12 River, five miles from the Haul Road, for 26 years.
13 William William. Died at 95 years old. That was his
14 homeland.

15
16 We hunt there. We fish there. We get
17 along great with everyone. And that is the last place
18 on earth that's accessible for recreationalists, for
19 hunters, Subsistence Board, air taxi operators,
20 guiding. That's the last place on earth that we can
21 have such an abundance in one small area.

22
23 I recognize that there's a lot of hard
24 rock minerals, rare earth elements, and potential for
25 oil and gas up there. But with that comes a -- well, a
26 lot of people. And Jack -- or Mr. Chair, it's going to
27 be detrimental.

28
29 And there's a research paper done by a
30 PhD student that said one percent increase in hunting -
31 - in hunter numbers will affect eight percent harvest
32 of moose and this is a study by a PhD student out of
33 Anchorage who studied the Ambler Road because talking
34 about the future hunting pressure.

35
36 So with climate change, with the
37 hunting pressure -- 15,000 people, non-residents hunt
38 Alaska every year. I'm a Class A assistant guide, but
39 I believe in the balance. Part of my livelihood comes
40 from guiding. Sheep, caribou, moose, grizzly bear. So
41 I find that balance, Mr. Chair and Members of the
42 Board, that we've got to protect and conserve our
43 existing populations as much as we can. Otherwise
44 we'll have nothing.

45
46 And I told the Board Chair, ADF&G Board
47 of Games' Ted Spraker, a few years ago, we can all work
48 together or we could hunt everything to extinction and
49 wonder what happened afterwards. I'm sitting here as a
50

1 Tribal Chief of 330 that we have a great working
2 relationship with the air taxi operators, the guides,
3 and the recreationalists.

4
5 So that's all my testimony. I can
6 entertain questions, Mr. Chair, if you have any more
7 questions. But that is my testimony.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your
10 testimony. Does any Council Members have questions or
11 comments.

12
13 Darrel.

14
15 MR. VENT: Yes. I've been up around
16 that area. I remember earlier in the days they used to
17 have some good moose population around there. And it -
18 - that moose population got hit hard. I'm glad that I
19 see that they're working together to try to improve
20 everything there with the State. And I hope everything
21 continues. That way you guys get back your livelihood
22 there with the subsistence.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

25
26 MS. PELKOLA: PJ, I thank you for your
27 comments. I think that's very, very, very important
28 that we do keep our traditional lifestyle. A lot of
29 people don't understand. The people that live -- I
30 wouldn't say everybody, but a lot of them don't
31 understand where we come from. We grew up with that
32 kind of food right in our backyard. And to turn that
33 land over to the State, I know regulations from that
34 State side and it's pretty tough. You can't compete
35 with it for our livelihood.

36
37 So I just thank you for your comments
38 and just keep hanging in there. And the Board backs
39 whatever you're saying.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny.

44
45 Fred.

46
47 MR. ALEXIE: Pollock, I'd really like
48 to thank you for your testimony. Well done. You're an
49 outspoken Chief of the Village of Allakaket. I know

50

1 that. And you've got a lot of experience. Your dad
2 sits on our Board. And he testifies lots on behalf of
3 our people.

4
5 But, you know, we lose that
6 subsistence, where are we. Who are we. We fought for
7 this land and these resources for years. It's an
8 uphill battle. It's a constant uphill battle. And
9 it's a constant uphill battle because it's not written
10 down. Our history was all oral. Whatever we know, we
11 were taught that by our grandpas and our dads.
12 Whatever we know about land use.

13
14 It's the same way down in our area.
15 What we fight for over the last years, king salmon
16 return. I thought it was a losing battle, but now
17 we're gaining. But we don't want to go through that
18 with, like in your area, fighting for the dall sheep,
19 the moose, caribou. It'll take too long to rebound.
20 And we know that. We know that.

21
22 It's just Alaska is a tough place. But
23 we've got to protect whatever we have. Otherwise we
24 lose that, we're lost. In our culture, our subsistence
25 way of life. I know that. We lose that and we're
26 going to go hungry. We'll have no way to feed our
27 village and our grandchildren.

28
29 And I'd really like to thank you for
30 really testifying this morning, Pollock. I sure
31 appreciate that.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you so much,
36 Fred.

37
38 Tim.

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 Thank you for your testimony, Pollock.
43 Real good to hear what your needs are for that
44 community and that tribe. Can you talk to the Council
45 about what was the Secretary of Interior's response to
46 your communication with him?

47
48 MR. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Gervais. I did
49 not meet with him. I requested. I met with the people
50

1 that know him and work with him, and quite
2 coincidentally, the guy I guided this fall moose
3 hunting had fundraisers for him in Montana. So I work
4 through different ways just to try to get word to him.
5
6

7 And, you know, with all due respect,
8 the area I'm talking about is very precious to not --
9 if it's BLM land, you know, 324 million people owns it.
10 That's America's land. And for us to give it up is a
11 national treasure and would be a national loss. To
12 protect our land and our resources for everyone to see
13 and hunt and live.
14

15 We've got people that come off the Haul
16 Road with horseback. We've got recreational gold
17 miners that go in there. Everyone's happy with that
18 little spot in Alaska. And to keep it in the hands of
19 Bureau of Land Management for us is vitally important.
20
21

22 That's why I was trying to reach out to
23 Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and invite
24 him up there to show him the flora and fauna of the
25 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and what would be lost
26 if we opened it up to the State lands and the hunting
27 congestion that we would see.
28

29 But with all due respect, if I may talk
30 to the comments of Mr. Alexie, Mrs. Pelkola, and Mr.
31 Vent, is thank you.
32

33 We live in a tough country. Sidney
34 Huntington was in Allakaket a few years ago. Not too
35 many -- three or four years ago and he said it's some
36 of the toughest country he's seen and wonder how our
37 people have survived there for so long, and it's
38 because we manage our game.
39

40 And even right now my tribal members'
41 freezers are empty. It's the dead of winter. But yet
42 they don't want to shoot moose because they share. We
43 share each other's -- people have beaver meat or we
44 have moose meat. And we don't want to kill off
45 everything. We understand that. And we make that
46 bitter sacrifice just for that.
47

48 And with that one percent increase in
49 hunters, eight percent of the moose numbers would drop.
50

1 So there is intellectual reports done by people --
2 intellectual elitists -- that prove that such hunting
3 pressure the Brooks -- Southern Brooks Range cannot
4 stand.

5
6 But -- and thank you, Mr. Vent, for
7 your comments. We work well together with existing
8 guides. I know them by first name. I talk to them and
9 said hey, don't take too much. We said okay, we know.
10 And give credit to them, they drop off caribou meat,
11 they drop off moose meat in Allakaket when times of --
12 tough times and the water's too low or the water's too
13 high or it rains too much, we get moose meat and
14 caribou meat. Sometimes sheep meat if we're lucky.
15 That's pretty hard to come by.

16
17 MR. THOMAS: Can I make a comment here.
18 You've got a good message. Keep giving it to them.
19 Let them know where everything is at and don't stop.
20 Keep telling them.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Dennis.

23
24 Now your dad wants to speak. Go ahead,
25 Pollock, Senior.

26
27 MR. SIMON: Yeah. I just wanted to
28 tell the story about hunting in the old days. My
29 grandfather used to go up in canoe or pull the boat in
30 in 1940s. And then my father -- he hunted sheep too
31 after that. And when I was younger I used to go up
32 into the mountains and look for sheep, too. The
33 mountains, which is now Gates of the Arctic National
34 Park. And today some young boys and my son still go up
35 in the mountains to look for sheep even though the
36 sheep numbers are actually pretty low. We always go up
37 the Alatna River and -- or go up the John River from
38 Bettles, you know, it's just good to take a trip, go in
39 boat and go up into the mountains and camp and all you
40 hear is the rushing of the creek river. It's good to
41 go out in the mountains. But we could do it now. But
42 what I'd like to say is that I want it to continue for
43 our children and your children.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.
48 Appreciate that.

49
50

1 Do you have another comment there,
2 Fred.

3
4 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. I'd just like to
5 make one more comment, Pollock. I know you're a guide.
6 You just got through saying you're a guide. And I
7 appreciate -- I appreciate the guides from our local
8 area. My guys -- they know the area. They know the
9 people. And they share with the people whatever they
10 get.

11
12 I know about five years ago -- I was
13 bad luck for five years. I was coming out of the
14 Kaiyuh. I sailed -- sailed the whole Kaiyuh for 17
15 hours, I turned my 115 horse kicker off. Why. Because
16 I was desperate. I heard a moose. I go back there. I
17 called. I sit. Nothing. I give up. Come back out.
18 And my wife was with me in the boat. Two of us.
19 That's all. Sailed for 17 hours. Camped. Didn't
20 start the boat not one time. Camp. Paddle to the
21 beach. Camped. Just coming out of the Kaiyuh before I
22 hit the Yukon. You know where that is. Just coming
23 out Kaiyuh. One of our guides, Earl, come by with a
24 bow hunter. Nice big rack on the boat. Earl, he look
25 at me, Earl's my nephew, he look at me and he's telling
26 me, uncle, I said nothing. That bow hunter look at
27 him. He told him hey, give him all that moose. Give
28 him -- giving me the whole moose. He's giving me the
29 whole moose. All he took is his trophy, you know.
30 Whatever.

31
32 But you see our local guides, they
33 understand. They know our -- they know us people. So
34 I -- you know, there's negativity about, you know,
35 guides. Especially down on our local level. There
36 always is negativity. You know, they don't like that
37 pressure of outside people coming but it's our
38 livelihood, too.

39
40 And, you know, I'd just like to comment
41 on you for you sharing whatever you said, Pollock. I
42 sure enjoyed that.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate those
47 comments, Fred.

48
49 All right. Shirley over here has been
50

1 wanting to say something. Go ahead, Shirley.

2
3 MS. CLARK: Here's a true story. Kind
4 of you'll probably appreciate. I have a bed and
5 breakfast and there was this lady from the Peace Corps.
6 And I came down, she was -- she had just come from
7 Eastern Africa, so of course I asked them what they ate
8 over there. What kind of meat. She said they ate goat
9 once a month, the whole village. I said well, what
10 about all the wild animals. Well, they had eaten
11 everything, including the rats. There was nothing
12 left. So they had their domestic goats that they --
13 once a month the whole family ate that.

14
15 So very good, very good presentation of
16 you, young man.

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, PJ.

18
19 MR. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

20
21 I've got one last comment. Up the
22 Alatna River there's five species of cisco that spawn
23 and a large population of sheefish. And all five
24 species of whitefish that spawn, and the sheefish, they
25 travel all over Alaska. Part of our populations of
26 broad whitefish go to the Minto Flats. They overwinter
27 in the Minto Flats. And it's an important fishery not
28 only for the Alatna River and the people of the
29 Southern Brooks Range, but for everyone, the people of
30 the Minto and Nenana area.

31
32 And also the sheefish -- they've been
33 tagged and they go down by the Innoko River. And they
34 overwinter down there. So keeping our area, the
35 Southern Brooks Range, everyone's area, pristine and
36 undeveloped is important to a lot of people along the
37 tributaries. It's an important food source, especially
38 now.

39
40 We don't know what the government's
41 going to face on the cuts. The State's \$3.8 billion in
42 the hole. It's some tough times coming up. Renewable
43 resources are biological goals.

44
45 I don't have anything else to say, Mr.
46 Chair, than what the people of Allakaket, our concerns
47 are and vet it to you and the Members of the Board.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. You're

50

1 speaking to the choir here, PJ. The food security, the
2 loss of subsistence on the Utility Corridor would be
3 extremely detrimental. It would be a chain reaction
4 effect throughout the whole subsistence community of
5 the whole South Slope of the Brooks Range.

6
7 You go on the North Slope. The State
8 of Alaska leases lands. You can't go past Deadhorse.
9 There is a gate. You're excluded from those lands.
10 The State of Alaska wants to sell, lease lands. We
11 lose access to the resource, all Alaskans lose lands to
12 the resource when that happens.

13
14 I don't trust the State of Alaska to
15 manage for the people of Alaska. They're looking for
16 money. The subsistence resource for the perpetuation
17 of the resource for subsistence use and non-subsistence
18 use has far more value than the short term effects that
19 the State would get. And so for food security of the
20 people of our area, your area, all of those Utility
21 Corridor lands, the watershed affects the Kanuti
22 National Wildlife Refuge. It affects all of the
23 fishery resources down river. And so it's a very
24 important issue.

25
26 And so I'm fully in agreement with you
27 on this 5150 issue, that they should not open the 5150.
28 I'm hoping that eventually you'll get to be able to
29 speak to the Secretary of Interior on that issue and
30 bring around a different -- he's hearing one side of
31 the story. He has to hear the other side. And I think
32 that this Secretary of Interior is sympathetic to not
33 conveying lands to the States. That was a big issue
34 with him.

35
36 Darrel.

37
38 MR. VENT: Yeah. I just wanted to let
39 you know a little bit of history on the area of Huslia
40 in Unit 24D. We turned it into a controlled use area
41 with the State and because we had a good moose
42 population back in the '70s so they had to enter into
43 some kind of agreement in order for the -- the all
44 users to be included in our area. So now we have, you
45 know, a subsistence user, which is the whole State of
46 Alaska.

47
48 And give you a little background on
49 that.

50

1 In our village you have like between
2 80, 85 percent unemployment. People don't have a job.
3 They have to have the subsistence. There's no other
4 choice. If you don't have that subsistence you're
5 going to have to face hard times. They've got to
6 realize that.

7
8 If they come in from the city and they
9 go hunting in our area, they've got options. They've
10 got a good store to go to. If you go to the store in
11 the villages it's four times the prices in the city.
12 So that hurts us when they have to take our food
13 sources away from us, whether it's caribou, moose,
14 beaver, bears, anything.

15
16 You know, we have to learn how to
17 survive on what's there. Because if they put a hurting
18 on a moose that means we're going to have to have more
19 for fishing, more for beaver. You know, it just
20 because caribou's not there no more. Our caribou
21 hasn't come back in the last, probably four or five
22 years we haven't really seen a good amount there.

23
24 In the '70s they used to just run right
25 through the village. That don't happen no more. They
26 put the pipeline in. We lost that. There's no more
27 caribou going through there. We know they've got good
28 areas to eat there, but they're not coming in no more.

29
30
31 So when the State does something for
32 you, be careful of what they do. Because we're seeing
33 the effects in our village.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was just sitting
38 here writing down the various communities that would be
39 affected by that 5150 issue. It would be Wiseman,
40 Coldfoot, Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville, Bettles, and
41 Hughes. Hughes has a eligibility to hunt in the Gates
42 of the Arctic National Park. Those communities would
43 have an extreme effect by opening of the Utility or
44 giving the State land -- the State of Alaska the lands
45 on the Utility Corridor because they all have a rural
46 customary and traditional use for that area. They can
47 actually go into the Utility Corridor and hunt under
48 Federal regulations. They would not be able to hunt
49 under State regulations.

50

1 I feel that this issue, this RMP issue
2 is so great that this Council should reopen our Annual
3 Report and insert it as another category in the Annual
4 Report. The BLM RMP would have extreme conveyance of
5 the lands to the State of Alaska. It would have
6 extreme detrimental effect to the subsistence users of
7 the upper part of the region, including Anaktuvuk Pass.
8 Anaktuvuk Pass goes in the Utility Corridor.
9 Customarily and traditionally into the Atigun Valley.
10 Their Inupiaq people hunted in that area and they still
11 go into the Akilik Drainage, and they still get into
12 the Utility Corridor to this day.

13
14 So this issue should be in our Annual
15 Report.

16
17 I feel the Federal Subsistence Board
18 should be aware that we have extreme concern about this
19 and we want to elevate this, not just within our
20 Region, we want to elevate this to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board also.

22
23 MR. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Chair. And as
24 Chief of the Tribe, I look after the well being of all
25 of my tribal members for health and safety and food
26 sources. And also I believe Huslia is in the Federal -
27 - they are. They can hunt the Gates of the Arctic
28 National Park and Preserve.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The eligibility cuts
31 off at Hughes. The Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles,
32 Evansville, Wiseman, Anaktuvuk Pass, Shungnak, Ambler,
33 and Kobuk and Nuiqsut. There's ten resident zoned
34 communities. Those are the -- I'm on the Gates of the
35 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. There are
36 family members from Huslia that go up and hunt with
37 people from Hughes. They have the eligibility. They
38 go with them. But that community itself does not have
39 the eligibility. It's not a resident zoned community.

40
41
42 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
43 insert into the Annual Report this issue of the Bureau
44 of Land Management's Resource Management Plan
45 alternatives that would be -- are alternatives that
46 would open Public Order 5150 to selection by the State
47 of Alaska and conveyance to the State of Alaska would
48 have extreme detriment to the subsistence users, and we
49 will name every community that would have those

50

1 detriments, including Nuiqsut, that has a customary and
2 traditional use into the Gates of the Arctic National
3 Park.

4
5 So those communities would be Nuiqsut,
6 Anaktuvuk, Wiseman, Coldfoot, Bettles, Evansville,
7 Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes and even residents of Huslia
8 because they do have family members. And we should
9 include that into the Annual Report because those
10 communities of the upper part of the Western Interior
11 Region would be highly affected by the exclusion of the
12 subsistence uses by the State of Alaska.

13
14 Do I have a motion to that effect.

15
16 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
17 make a motion to add this issue to the Annual Report,
18 please.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

21
22 MR. VENT: Second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Fred.
25 Seconded by Darrel. Mr. Spindler would like to speak
26 to the issue while we're under discussion.

27
28 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, just briefly. In
29 preparation of Kanuti's comments on the BLM Plan, I
30 talked to Caroline Brown with the State Division of
31 Subsistence and there are some recent reports just came
32 out. Seth Wilson did a lot of work in Allakaket and he
33 just did a report on Hughes subsistence and there's
34 really good data showing the dependence of those
35 villages that you mentioned on the whitefish resource
36 and the importance of the spawning and overwintering
37 habitat provided by Kanuti Refuge and the Lower --
38 Middle Koyukuk area from Hughes up to and including the
39 Evansville area.

40
41 So I just wanted to call your attention
42 to those reports. Some of them are real -- very recent
43 and some really good data that will I think help BLM
44 look at the priority that that habitat provides for
45 subsistence resources.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I would like the

50

1 Annual Report to reflect that the Office of Subsistence
2 Management present to the Federal Subsistence Board
3 those use areas that are well documented through State
4 and Federal community harvest mapping within the
5 Utility Corridor and show the Board that these are
6 actually very important use areas by all of the
7 communities that we named. They all have use in that
8 area.

9
10 And so it's not just me in Wiseman.
11 It's a much wider range of effect.

12
13 And so any further discussion on that
14 motion and to insert into the Annual Report.

15
16 Pollock.

17
18 MR. SIMON: I just want to mention that
19 some grandfathers that live in Huslia, they used to,
20 from Allakaket they used to go up into the mountains to
21 hunt sheep. So it's like Darrel's grandfather used to
22 go hunting sheep off the mountains. It should be
23 grandfather rights for some of them. I know my uncle,
24 he used to live in Allakaket, now he lives in Huslia
25 and died there. His kids should be able to go up in
26 the mountains.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.

31
32 Any further discussion.

33
34 MR. VENT: Could we also put a note in
35 there, you know, we're having issues with probably
36 climate change. I think that's what it mostly adds up
37 to, but a lot of animals are not reacting the same
38 anymore because of, you know, it's not, you know, I'm
39 looking ahead because I know climate change is going to
40 affect a lot of the things that we use. So I just want
41 to make sure that we note that in there.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we could say
44 that the climatic effect would cause -- as Annette
45 Wilson -- was her name Wilson?

46
47 MR. STEVENSON: Watson.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Watson. Watson.

50

1 Annette Watson was saying that there's been use shifts
2 over time. That's her study. And so climatic change
3 may shift uses more to the Upper Drainage over time.
4 But those areas would be excluded under State
5 management.

6
7 Do we have.....

8
9 MR. VENT: The reason I brought that
10 up, because we noticed that in our moose. That, you
11 know, they're migrating. They're moving away from our
12 area. So we're having more -- like I mentioned in my
13 Board Member comments that we, you know, there's --
14 it's a migration because there's more predators in our
15 area. They tend to move when there's something that's
16 too effective on them. And I just wanted to note that.

17
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a
20 question on the motion.

21
22 MR. SIMON: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
25 called. Those in favor of inserting this Annual report
26 -- item into the Annual Report to highlight it to the
27 Federal Subsistence Board in regards to the Western
28 Interior Region conveyance of lands under 5150 of the
29 BLM RMP process. Those in favor of that Annual Report
30 topic, signify by saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
35 sign.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate your
40 attendance of our meeting, PJ, and I really appreciate
41 all you do for your Tribe and this Region. I really
42 appreciate that.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. SIMON: And Members of the Board,
47 Mr. Chair, thank you. On behalf of the Tribe of
48 Allakaket, thank you for all the hard work that you
49 guys do.

50

1 Thank you again.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Come back anytime.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're -- where
8 are we at here, Zach? We've got.....

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: I believe we, bear with
11 me just a moment, Mr. Chair, while I review the agenda.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 MR. STEVENSON: I believe we are at the
16 -- I believe the next comment -- or the next item on
17 the agenda -- item number 12 was Native Organizations,
18 Tanana Chiefs.

19
20 Do we have those representatives here
21 this afternoon -- or this morning.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is any TCC members
24 on the phone. We're at a point in the agenda for
25 Tribal comments.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. You saw Ben.
30 So yeah, if he could be rounded up. Or KNA or any
31 Native organization that would like to speak to the
32 Council on any issue.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear
37 anybody on the phone.

38
39 We're looking for Ben Stevens.

40
41 I see Brian McKenna in this. Nicole
42 Farnham are the names here on -- for TCC.

43
44 Oh, Ben. Are you here for TCC, can we
45 drag you in here for any Tribal comments?

46
47 MR. STEVENS: No. I'm not. I'm here
48 for another reason, but I can answer questions.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we have a
2 point on our agenda and right here we have Tanana
3 Chiefs. We just happ -- somebody happened to notice
4 you in the hall.

5
6 MR. STEVENS: Oh.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so.....

9
10 MR. STEVENS: I didn't come today to
11 present, no.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But if you
14 have any concerns that you can think of offhand for the
15 Western Interior's edification, we would appreciate
16 those. If you don't -- we're just giving you an
17 opportunity.

18
19 MR. STEVENS: You are too kind. Thank
20 you very much. I'll check with my colleague, but now
21 would probably not be a time to make some.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I see Brian
24 and Nicole's names here. They're not about either, do
25 you know if.....

26
27 MR. STEVENS: I haven't seen them.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

30
31 MR. STEVENS: I apologize.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Just
34 wanted to give you the opportunity.

35
36 MR. STEVENS: Thank you, sir.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thank you.

39
40 And I can't find anybody on the phone
41 that wants to comment under tribal governments.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We did have PJ's
46 comments, which were very important.

47
48 So we're at U.S. Fish and Wildlife
49 Yukon River Pre-season Salmon Management Review, Yukon
50

1 Fisheries Management Staff. And so we've got Jeff
2 Estensen on the phone also.

3
4 Are you still there, Jeff?

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Gerald Maschmann
9 is passing out some papers here. Okay. Everybody's
10 got your paperwork here.

11
12 Gerald, go ahead when you're ready.

13
14 And are you still on the phone, Jeff?

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Holly might be on the
19 phone.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Holly, are you
22 there?

23
24 MS. CARROLL: Yeah. This is Holly
25 Carroll.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

28
29 MS. CARROLL: I like to let the Federal
30 manager give the report for us. And then I'll just
31 stand by for any extra questions if you have any, Mr.
32 Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I was just
35 making sure everybody was on the phone.

36
37 So okay. Go ahead.

38
39 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 My name is Gerald Maschmann. I'm with the U.S. Fish
41 and Wildlife Service, at the Fairbanks Subsistence
42 Fisheries Office. I'm the Assistant Federal In-Season
43 Manager and many of you know I work for Fred Bue, who
44 is behind me. And he can back up any questions that I
45 can't answer. And Holly is online and she can feel
46 free to interject any time she needs to clarify or --
47 and if Jeff gets back on the line, he can interject as
48 he needs to also.

49
50

1 A handout -- I've -- I'm handing out.
2 I'm just going to go through it real quick. You guys
3 have heard the 2016 season review, so I'm not really
4 going to go into that, and it's still pretty early for
5 the 2017 outlook, but we'll talk about that briefly.

6
7 As everyone knows, the chinook salmon
8 runs on the Yukon River have been low in recent years
9 and managers have taken actions to try and meet
10 escapement goals, provide for subsistence users, and
11 provide when available for other uses such as
12 commercial fishing. But things may be starting to
13 improve.

14
15 If you turn to page two of that handout
16 you can see the top graph that shows chinook salmon
17 commercial harvests have been reduced since 1998
18 because chinook cannot support large commercial
19 harvests.

20
21 The middle graph shows that subsistence
22 harvests remain steady, even with declining production
23 until about 2012, when more severe subsistence fishing
24 restrictions started to be implemented in order to meet
25 escapement needs. You can see that the restrictions on
26 subsistence fishing in 2013, 2014, and 2015 resulted in
27 subsistence harvests well below average.

28
29 The bottom graph shows that chinook
30 salmon estimated total run sizes had been declining
31 steadily from 2007 to 2013. Despite a poor run in
32 2014, the subsistence restrictions implemented did
33 result in a fairly good overall draining wide
34 escapement, as you can see by the lower dark portion of
35 the stack bars. You can also see that we have been
36 successful in passing good numbers of fish to the
37 spawning ground since 2014, which is encouraging for
38 future runs.

39
40 On page three.....

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: Question, Jack.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Tim, go right
45 ahead. I almost had a question there myself. Go
46 ahead.

47
48 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 Gerald, this -- the third graph on the
2 bottom, estimated total chinook runs, so what rivers is
3 that -- are combined in that total.

4
5 MR. MASCHMANN: That's a good question.
6 I would prefer to let Holly answer that. It's not so
7 much a number as an estimate. And the department goes
8 through a lot of their statistical analysis and they
9 come up with a, what we might describe as an estimated
10 run.

11
12 And I don't know if Holly, if you want
13 to clarify on kind of how we come up with an estimated
14 chinook run.

15
16 MS. CARROLL: Yeah. Sure, Gerald.
17 Through the Chair.

18
19 That run estimation that you're looking
20 at, we estimate that using the Canadian component. And
21 what we used to do is we would take the number of fish
22 that ended up escaping into Canada, the estimated total
23 Canadian run, and that number we have a really good
24 estimation for because we have a sonar project at the
25 border and we can estimate the passage into Canada.

26
27 And then we used to assume that the
28 Canadian component was about 50 percent of the total
29 run; so all the stocks coming up into the Yukon River.

30
31
32 So to answer, I believe it was Tim's
33 question, that estimate is for the main stem Yukon.
34 That's basically the total run, including all the
35 different stocks, the lower stock, the Tanana stocks,
36 the Koyukuk stock.

37
38 And we used to take that Canadian
39 escapement and multiply it by two. And now we're using
40 more updated genetic information. And we know that the
41 Canadian component is only on average across most years
42 about 40 percent of the total run. So that bar chart
43 now, the way we calculated those total run numbers for
44 the whole Yukon, we take the Canadian total run that's
45 estimated at the border and we divide that by .40.
46 That's where those bars come from.

47
48 It is a very rough estimate of what we
49 think all the stocks combined comprise in the Yukon
50

1 River.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That answers your
10 question, Tim?
11
12 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is I'm
15 wondering about the run passages. The first pulse
16 comprising a large percentage of the Canadian component
17 and what is the composition of that. Is it a good male
18 to female ratio? And do we have large females in that
19 component?
20
21

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1 Are we starting to see that? With all
2 of these hardships that have been incurred through the
3 subsistence users in this Yukon River, are we starting
4 to reap some better compositions onto the spawning
5 ground? That's the question.
6

7 MS. CARROLL: Yeah. Mr. Chair, this is
8 Holly Carroll again. As Gerald explained, we haven't
9 really put together a lot of data to speak to what
10 you're talking to. But I guess I'd like to answer your
11 question by first asking you a question. You mentioned
12 that there were really skewed sex ratios for a while,
13 many years into Canada. What years are you referring
14 to? Are you talking about sort of prior to 2005, back
15 when we had fish wheels monitoring the escapement into
16 Canada or what.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, primarily.....

19
20 MS. CARROLL:time period are you
21 referring?
22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Primarily, before
24 the analysis was made for gear type on the Yukon River.
25 They used eight and a half, eight and three-quarter
26 inch gear. Basically took every last big king salmon
27 off the Yukon River to where there was virtually above
28 Tanana of any significant size going into Canada. Once
29 those gear restrictions were put in place in 2009, then
30 we went into runs that were crashing, and so then we
31 went into closures and long closures, went into
32 moratoriums and so forth.
33

34 So previous to 2000, the Board of Fish
35 action to change down to seven and a half inch gear,
36 which never has really been implemented to a large
37 degree, there was some really poor escapements as far
38 as composition into Canada. It was catastrophic. And
39 fortunately the Department of Fish and Game did the
40 selectivity study which analyzed and showed that the
41 seven and a half inch gear took the majority of what
42 was present so that we weren't straining off one
43 component over another.
44

45 I'm asking are we starting to see
46 better -- now we've had -- since 2009 we've had some re
47 -- starting to get some returns with some of the
48 moratoriums that have been on. 2009 was a pretty good
49 bump because there was a lot of sacrifice with that.
50

1 That year there was a lot better, larger fish.

2

3 I was collecting genetic samples on the
4 Jim River and I saw quite a bit better fish that year,
5 but mainly because they got protected to get onto the
6 spawning ground. Are we starting to see that in the --
7 there's these suite of gear that's used at Eagle, are
8 we starting to see better escapements into Canada.
9 That's the question. Are we starting to see more 900-
10 millimeter fish.

11

12 MS. CARROLL: Well, it's not a simple
13 answer that I have for you, I'm afraid, Mr. Chair.
14 What we find in the king runs is that in some years the
15 runs are dominated by five year olds and some years
16 they're dominated by six year olds. And then like what
17 we saw in 2015, you even see a lot of four year olds
18 coming back. And when the run comes back like that --
19 when the run comes back dominated by five year olds,
20 for instance, we are going to see more males on the
21 spawning grounds.

22

23 And so what we've seen over the last
24 five, six years is that the sex ratios have been
25 fluctuating. I don't actually have length data right
26 in front of me plotted that I can tell you for the
27 average over the last few years, but what I can tell
28 you is when we've looked at four, five, and six year
29 olds, the way the run has been coming back the five and
30 the six year olds have been kind of alternating who's
31 dominating the run.

32

33 And in years when five year olds
34 dominate, we do see smaller, more male escapements.
35 But we are seeing high escapement numbers in the last
36 three years than we have obviously when we weren't
37 meeting escapement goals. So that's good. We're
38 getting a lot of numbers on the spawning grounds and
39 we've been putting more fish on the spawning grounds
40 than is required by the International Treaty. And some
41 of that just comes down to sort of management
42 precision.

43

44 But to answer your question about size,
45 when we implement -- when the Board of Fish implemented
46 the size restriction down to seven and a half inch, I
47 just wanted to clarify that that has been implemented
48 in the sense that there is no gear larger -- or than
49 seven and a half allowed on the Yukon River. And

50

1 enforcement actions have been taken to guarantee that
2 that's being complied with.

3
4 So we have had the seven and a half
5 inch restriction in place since 2012. I'm not sure all
6 fishermen have gotten the memo about that. We
7 constantly remind people about that. And then when
8 enforcement goes out, unfortunately they are
9 confiscating people's nets if they're bigger than seven
10 and a half inch. So that mesh size study did result in
11 a reduction in the largest king gear that could be used
12 and that has been implemented for the last few years,
13 so it is helping.

14
15 And then we've had such harsh
16 restrictions in the subsistence fishery that, you know,
17 we aren't even really been offering much seven and a
18 half inch opportunity. Most people are restricted to
19 six inch for most of the season.

20
21 So to get to an earlier question, do we
22 think that's having an effect on the quality of
23 escapement of the spawning grounds. Yes, it likely is.
24 But it's hard to tell when we have runs like the last
25 couple of years that are dominated by fix and six year
26 olds.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I just wanted
29 to -- so anecdotally we can say that yeah, there's been
30 the seven and a half gear restriction, but they haven't
31 really implemented it that much because it's been six
32 inch mesh primarily for the majority of the king run if
33 there's even some opportunity. But if people were able
34 to use seven and a half it would be a lot better for
35 the chinook run in general if our runs begin coming
36 back to where we can have the windowed openings
37 eventually. Hopefully this run will come back to where
38 we have opportunity earlier in the run with windowed
39 openings.

40
41 So I just wanted to get an idea of how
42 many big fish they -- you know, their spawning grounds
43 they do these carcass analyses and so forth. And so
44 I'm not going to belabor this. I just feel that we
45 should be doing a lot better on the spawning grounds.
46 The fecundity, productivity of the -- what we're
47 putting there is not just in numbers, but it's also in
48 quality. There was a huge quality issue before that.
49 So that's what I keep talking about.

50

1 Fred, have you got a comment, question?

2

3

4

5 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Just by going by
6 experience and fishing on the river, I, myself, and a
7 lot of people in Kaltag or from Nulato on down, we go
8 before the pulse is implemented. First pulse, I don't
9 fish according to that one. Why? Because of quality -
10 - fish quality. I do not fish after that first pulse
11 because of quality of the fish.

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The big -- before the pulse run I find
that the consistency of the kings more stronger. The
meat is stronger. The fish is healthier and we get
less females before that first pulse come.

When that first pulse comes it is a
mixture of the females and the males. And in our way
of fishing we prefer to get the big males because we're
-- we know that the females are, you know, the big
females are carrying the -- carrying up all them eggs.
And that's our practice in Kaltag.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Fred.
Good information to know.

Do you have a similar stance on that,
Jenny? Jenny fishes a lot.

MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. I do.

(Laughter)

MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. We don't normally,
you know, do the first pulse either. We let that go by
and we -- we similar -- have the, you know, similar
practice as Kaltag and Nulato.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

Go ahead, Gerald. So we've just
got.....

MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Had some little
questions there. Go ahead.

MR. MASCHMANN: So if we go to page

1 three, page three shows the chinook salmon annual
2 passage by the sonar projects near Pilot Station and
3 Eagle. The top Pilot Station graph shows that the
4 chinook run coming into the Yukon River has only
5 slightly increased in recent years, while the bottom
6 graph at Eagle shows a definite increase since 2014. A
7 big part of that increase at Eagle is due to the
8 subsistence harvest restrictions that we'd been
9 implementing because of our failure to attain
10 escapement goals way too often since 2007.

11
12 We did ease up on restrictions somewhat
13 in 2016 because we had made our border passage goals.
14 We had made our border passage goals since 2014 and
15 2015. We hope to continue to cautiously back off the
16 restrictions in 2017, but we're still waiting for our
17 actual forecast to be completed before we get any --
18 into any details of in-season management for 2017.

19
20 If we go to the graphs on page four,
21 they show the trend in relative run strength since 1995
22 for summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon. What you
23 can see is that these three species appear to be doing
24 fairly well since the low years of the late '90s and
25 early 2000s.

26
27 The top graph on page five shows run
28 timing and magnitude of the different salmon species on
29 the Yukon River. The red fill shows summer chum salmon
30 run timing and abundance and the blue fill shows the
31 chinook salmon run timing and abundance. This graph
32 shows that the four salmon species as they passed the
33 sonar near Pilot Station. You know, in contrast to
34 visualize Upper River District 5, you would see that
35 almost the entire red fill representing summer chum
36 would be absent.

37
38 So there's really no option to harvest
39 summer chum as compensation for reduced chinook
40 subsistence use in the Upper River. And that's, you
41 know, been a management challenge for us as to get
42 District -- Upper District 5, you know, an opportunity
43 when they don't have the opportunity to harvest summer
44 chum.

45
46 It has been a major challenge for
47 managers to allow fishermen to harvest the abundant
48 summer chum while protecting that overlapping chinook
49 salmon run. Subsistence fishing for summer chum has
50

1 been restricted to dipnets and non-lethal gear when
2 chinook were present early in the season. When good
3 numbers of chinook were present through the Lower
4 Yukon, subsistence fishing was opened to six inch mesh.
5 And commercial chum fishing with gillnets was allowed
6 later in the season.

7
8 Not only is it a challenging to manage
9 the overlapping summer chum and chinook salmon runs,
10 the bottom figure shows that -- or that on the next
11 page the map shows that we're also trying to manage for
12 a mixed chinook salmon stock, with different stocks
13 going to many different places on the river.

14
15 This all gets pretty complex, but one
16 thing we've learned with our studies is that earlier
17 portions of the run tend to migrate the farthest up
18 river. So when we talk about first protection, it is
19 the majority of those early chinook that are bound for
20 the Canadian border.

21
22 The rest of the report summarizes the
23 2016 season, which you already heard last fall, so I
24 won't go into that unless you have more questions about
25 last year. And it also gives a brief outlook for the
26 2017 season, which I'll summarize for you now.

27
28 MR. VENT: Jack. Jack.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead,
31 Darrel.

32
33 MR. VENT: Yeah. I've got a question
34 here. I noticed in your 2013/2014 -- is that about the
35 time when they started doing the commercial fishing?
36 When did they start the commercial fishing for the
37 summer chum or the fall chum?

38
39 MR. MASCHMANN: Specifically for the
40 dipnetting or.....

41
42 MR. VENT: It's for the whole areas.
43 I'm just kind of curious because I see the numbers are
44 not remaining steady, but it's kind of declining.

45
46 MR. MASCHMANN: Which graph are you
47 looking at?

48
49 MR. VENT: I'm looking at the Yukon
50

1 River summer chum run size index. It shows the 2013,
2 2014, 2015, and a projected 2016. On page four.

3
4 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah. Yukon River
5 summer chum runs have been excellent and good. And
6 they've been commercial harvesting, but there's been
7 way above escapement goals for summer chum. We've been
8 meeting escapement goals and beyond for summer chum for
9 several years now. So they're doing very good, summer
10 chum.

11
12 MR. VENT: Because I know these aren't
13 actual numbers. These are projected numbers. I'm just
14 kind of curious. You know, I see your 2016 numbers are
15 way up there. With the charts showing a decline on
16 there, I don't see how your projected numbers are, you
17 know, it should reflect what the actual numbers are.

18
19 But I don't see where you're getting
20 these numbers from unless there's a lot of fishing
21 that's going to be going on this year or something. I
22 don't know how this is, you know, your -- that here
23 looks like that, you know, what I'm worried about is
24 they had commercial fishing for king salmon before.

25
26 Now they had to switch over to summer
27 chums because there was a lot of them out on there.
28 But I'm worried that, you know, once they put too much
29 of a market on there, it's going to hurt what happens
30 to the summer chums. We don't want to see that because
31 we use summer chums up in our area. We use the fall
32 chums.

33
34 And I just don't want to see that
35 hurting our people because we're running out of a lot
36 of subsistence use and, you know, I think we're a
37 priority when it comes to fishing. So that's just my
38 main concern. I just don't want to see that crashing
39 on us and we don't have nothing -- we're left with
40 nothing again.

41
42 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Gerald.

45
46 MR. MASCHMANN: So the graph on page
47 four, that -- those are an estimate of the total run
48 size. So we took the Pilot Station number for summer
49 chum. We got that total. Then we took the harvest

50

1 that happened downstream which include subsistence
2 estimates and the commercial harvest. And then we took
3 the summer chum that went up the Andreafsky River. And
4 we totaled all that together just to give us an index
5 of what we think the total summer chum run was for
6 those years.

7
8 And in 2016 it's still preliminary.
9 That's why it's hash marked. But we've had excellent
10 summer chum runs. They've been harvesting summer chum
11 in the commercial fishery and we've still gotten plenty
12 of fish beyond escapement goals for summer chum. So
13 summer chum are doing well.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What is the
16 escapement goal on summer chum drainage wise, like
17 around 900,000, or.....

18
19 MR. MASCHMANN: Holly, can you answer
20 that? I'm not sure if there's a summer chum drainage
21 wide escapement goal.

22
23 MS. CARROLL: Yeah. Mister -- there is
24 a new drainage wide escapement goal for summer chum.
25 And it's 500,000 to 1.2 million. So it's a range.

26
27 And one of the things I just want to
28 reiterate about what Gerald is saying there is that the
29 chart that you guys are referencing is showing that
30 last year when we account for the harvest and how many
31 were counted at Pilot, we estimate that there was over
32 2 million summer chum last year. And what we're
33 finding is that when we have this run of summer chum
34 coming back like we had the last couple of years and
35 the run size is estimated to be about 1.8 million, we
36 actually -- we can calculate a harvestable surplus by
37 taking that drainage wide goal into account and we can
38 figure out what the harvestable surplus was.

39
40 And last year the harvestable surplus
41 was over 800,000 fish. But our fleet -- and because of
42 the need to conserve chinook salmon, we're not capable
43 of taking the entire harvestable surplus of summer chum
44 salmon. We haven't been -- we haven't even been coming
45 close to it.

46
47 So I just wanted to speak to that
48 gentleman's concerns that because we are using
49 selective gear early in the season for summer chum,
50

1 it's harder to catch summer chum that way. We're doing
2 a lot of avoidance of fishing in order to protect king
3 salmon, and so we don't -- there's not much concern at
4 this time that we would over fish the summer chum runs.
5 We aren't even touching that harvestable surplus
6 basically with runs of this size.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What was your
9 commercial harvest approximately?

10
11 MS. CARROLL: Last season it was about
12 530,000. I'm just throwing that number out from the
13 pre-season. And I'm sure it's covered in your document
14 there. I can't find the number right now. But it was
15 about 525,000 total.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18
19 MS. CARROLL: For chum.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So they're.....

22
23 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Go ahead,
26 Tim.

27
28 MR. GERVAIS: I'm seeing on page eight
29 of the 2016 preliminary Yukon River summer season
30 summary, the summer chum harvest is listed at 181,000.

31
32
33 MS. CARROLL: Yeah. That's not
34 complete. You're looking at just the harvest from the
35 selective gear fishery. So if you continue reading on
36 page nine, the total harvest was 525,863 summer chum
37 for the entire Yukon area.

38
39 That table you referenced was how many
40 summer chum they caught just with selective gear, which
41 is dipnets and beach seines.

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Thanks, Holly.
44 That's a big difference.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
47 Gerald.

48
49 MR. MASCHMANN: And just to let the
50

1 Council know, the State puts out -- Holly put out a
2 preced -- or what Tim was referring to. I have a stack
3 of these that I've placed in the -- on the table out
4 front. There's a summer season summary and a 2016 fall
5 season summary. You should have gotten the summer
6 season summary at your fall meeting. The fall area
7 summer season -- or fall season summary wasn't out
8 then.

9
10 So there is a fall season that the
11 Department -- it's got a lot of details about
12 commercial fishing. It's got age class information and
13 more data that I am presenting here today. But that's
14 on the table out front. So.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Tim.

17
18 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 Gerald, referring to page six of the
21 handout on telemetry, I was -- wanted to know, is there
22 telemetry projects going on every year or is it just
23 individual studies?

24
25 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair. No.
26 There was a -- we had a big Yukon River chinook salmon
27 telemetry study in the early 2000s, by John Eiler with
28 NOAA. And so this is basically taking his data and
29 summarizing it just to -- just to prove the point that
30 we're not dealing with a single stock of chinook.
31 We're dealing with stocks all over the Yukon and we're
32 trying to manage those stocks as best we can.

33
34 And, you know, that first pulse
35 protection is -- is a lot of Canadian and so -- but
36 it's not all Canadian, and so we're doing our best to
37 try and spread the harvest -- and spread harvest out
38 over those different stocks and.....

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: I thought that the Pilot
41 Station folks were tagging fish on an annual basis to
42 see if -- their survival and their origin.

43
44 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair. No,
45 that's not the case. There was some time ago a chum
46 tagging. And there's been talk of maybe tagging coho
47 and then there's been talk in the future of doing
48 another chinook tagging project. But the tagging
49 projects are very expensive, very labor intensive.

50

1 And there was the -- John Eiler with
2 NOAA did the big chinook tagging in the early 2000s and
3 we got three or four of the years out of that and this
4 is basically summarizing his study on where the stocks
5 go to.

6
7 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

8
9 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Mr. Chair, this
10 is Jeff Estensen with Fish and Game, Fall Season
11 Manager, for the record. I think maybe what Tim might
12 be referring to is the collection of genetics from
13 chinook and from chum at Pilot Station sonar, which did
14 allow us to get an idea of where those stocks are or
15 what the origin of those stocks are. But that may be
16 what Tim is referring to.

17
18 Thanks.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
21 clarification, Jeff.

22
23 Fred, you got a question.

24
25 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Jeff, I would like
26 to ask do you allow commercial fishing for the king
27 salmon down in the Lower River?

28
29 MR. ESTENSEN: I'll let Holly.....

30
31 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.

32
33 MR. ESTENSEN: I'll let Holly answer
34 that one since she's the summer season manager. Holly.

35
36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Holly.

38
39 MS. CARROLL: Yes. And so we have not
40 had any commercial directed for many years. And even
41 it was brought up earlier that summer chum fishing
42 might be a new thing and it's not a new thing at all.
43 We've been commercial fishing for summer chum for a
44 long time. But there's not been a commercial sale for
45 chinook salmon since I believe 2011.

46
47 So when commercial fishermen go out and
48 when they are using gillnets for summer chum, that
49 commercial fishing typically doesn't happen until about
50

1 80 percent or 90 percent of the chinook run has passed
2 by. But once they are using gillnets, they may keep
3 chinook salmon for their subsistence use, but they may
4 not sell chinook salmon.

5

6 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Yeah. Just.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. ALEXIE: Just to further elaborate
11 on that commercial fishing, you know, I, myself -- we
12 sacrificed for four years. People on the whole entire
13 river sacrificed for the last four years trying to get
14 the chinook salmon to rebound and when the numbers come
15 up like it did in 2016, I would wait what, another four
16 more years, before even thinking about commercial
17 opening.

18

19 And like Darrel was talking about the
20 fall fishing, that too is going to go down with
21 commercial openings. And if that goes down, that's
22 going to be another hardship. It will put more strain
23 on catching the king salmon. It'll put more strain on
24 all the fish really for that matter, you know, whether
25 it be the summer chums or the fall chums, cohos, king
26 salmon.

27

28 And I just -- you know, I know there
29 are a lot of people that go commercial fishing. And,
30 you know, to use that and make it a preference for them
31 over subsistence, I do not like that over subsistence
32 use.

33

34 I don't think I've ever seen any kind
35 of percentage as to the whole run, saying hey, this was
36 caught by commercial or subsistence. I've never seen
37 that kind of figure out there for me to look at.

38

39 And one thing I'd like to, you know,
40 while we're talking about the fishing is the bycatch
41 numbers, I do not want to dicker on that bycatch
42 numbers either. Because you up that bycatch, you are
43 putting more strain on that, you know, river. The fish
44 coming up the Yukon. And once you do that, we're going
45 to go right back down to what we were in 2000-whatever.

46

47

48 You know, but at any rate -- and also
49 to clarify the use of fish wheels for that species --

50

1 king salmon or silver, we have never used fish wheels
2 now for quite a few years, especially where we're at.
3 It is faster for us in Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk to
4 just go out with fishnets. We catch what we want and
5 we're done for the day. You catch 20 king salmon in
6 one day fishing. That's one whole day of work. You
7 get done at 7:00 o'clock in the evening and then the
8 work begins after that to take care of that fish.

9
10 So we allow ourselves -- we've been
11 user of that fish for thousands and thousands of years,
12 we know how to take care of that -- we know how to take
13 care of that fish. And to over fish it, I don't go for
14 that. And numbers that are coming back, don't get
15 excited, please and say hey, commercial will be on or
16 whatever, you know, and allow fishing to go on and over
17 harvest again. I just don't want to see that.

18
19 Okay.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred.

24
25 The last few years -- previous to the
26 last few years, the Department was real anxious to drop
27 the gun on commercial harvest and since they got burned
28 many times on not meeting escapement needs, the
29 Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
30 have managed very conservatively and met escapement
31 needs or exceeded escapement needs. And the preseason
32 outlook for summer and fall season, it looks to me that
33 they're going to maintain these conservative management
34 strategies, harvesting any commercial after assurance
35 that escapement needs are met.

36
37 And so at this time I think that we
38 should continue to be very conservative. And so I see
39 that the preseason forecast that the management
40 strategies are going to be similar.

41
42 I've got people that are wanting to go
43 for break.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we'll round
48 this up. Any final questions or comments.

49
50

1 Gerald.

2
3 (No comments)

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

6
7 MR. VENT: Yeah. I just had one little
8 concern in there. You know, that when they started
9 figuring out what happened with the kings there, it was
10 that they were taking too many of the big kings and
11 that's like taking the strain out of the fish. And
12 when you do something like that, you -- it really
13 crashes on you.

14
15 So what I'm worried about with the
16 summer chum -- if you start taking those big ones, then
17 you're going to have a hard time getting it to rebound
18 because it, you know, the predation in there. It's
19 like with other animals. You always have predation.
20 You've got to account for so much for predation before
21 you figure out, you know, if these numbers are going to
22 stay at the level you want or it's going to drop.

23
24 So I'm concerned about, you know, how
25 they fish.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's --
28 early in the run they don't have -- all king salmon
29 that are caught with dipnets or beach seining are
30 thrown back in.

31
32 MR. VENT: It's the summer chum I'm,
33 you know, kind of projecting for. Because they're
34 doing commercial fishing. You know, the bigger fish
35 you catch, the better sales you have.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the dipnet or
38 the beach seine would basically have no size selection.
39 They would basically take all that they catch of all
40 the chum. Once they go -- the Board of Fish has gone
41 into more, what is it, five and a half inch gear for
42 chum commercial fishery?

43
44 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes. For -- Mr. Chair,
45 to give the Managers an option they've -- Holly, the
46 in-season manager, can limit to five and a half inch
47 mesh to even protect those chinook even further, and
48 we've done that.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But, you know, the
2 five and a half -- you know, I would have liked to have
3 seen a selectivity study for chum so that we harvest at
4 an optimum range with gear types. So that we don't
5 skew -- you know, what Darrel's talking about is
6 skewing. Basically yeah, those big males are way
7 bigger than a female. And so we don't skew these
8 populations in ratios, like we got into problems with
9 the chinook.

10
11 But right now the harvest is way, way
12 below the harvest at the surplus, so I'm not real super
13 concerned about what the commercial fishery is actually
14 doing to the geno stock.

15
16 You've got another comment. Final
17 comment there, Fred.

18
19 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. One last comment.

20
21 Yeah. Jeff, I would like just -- I
22 would like to see an update on bycatch for our fall
23 meeting, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Of course. We will
26 want an update on the performance of the Yukon and
27 Kuskokwim fisheries and that usually occurs in our fall
28 meeting.

29
30 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Why I do not -- the
31 last number I looked at was 120,000 bycatch. I think
32 that was set, I think, I'm not too sure, Jeff, maybe
33 you could -- at any rate, hey, you take that 120,000,
34 divide that by the villages and what I figured out one
35 time, that 120,000 -- you give 1,000 fish to Kaltag.
36 You distributed the 1,000 fish in Kaltag. Everybody
37 would have their quota for.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are they bycatch --
40 the Bering Sea bycatch is a total bycatch. Some are
41 Asian stock. Some are Bristol Bay stocks. There's --
42 and I don't know that they can really differentiate
43 closely Kuskokwim and Yukon stocks. But it's about 40
44 percent or AYK stocks -- of the bycatch.

45
46 So the -- yeah, so the Yukon would be
47 in the AYK area. So we -- yeah. But it's an impact.
48 And several years ago we had -- Commissioner of Fish
49 and Game, Sam Cotten, used to be on the North Pacific
50

1 Fisheries Management Council and he come to Galena and
2 this Council told them all that bycatch should be
3 processed, not ground up and thrown overboard. It
4 should be processed and returned to the communities.
5 Oh, that would cost a lot of money.

6
7 I says yeah, that disincentivizes
8 taking those fish on the high seas. If they've got to
9 process them and can't grind them and get them out of
10 sight, out of mind, they've actually got to process
11 them, that would disincen -- oh, some of them would be
12 small. Oh, well. We'll take the small ones, too.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But they -- there
17 was -- there's some. And a lot of the product that
18 they actually retained went to the Seattle Food Bank.
19 It didn't come back to Alaska. So that was kind of a
20 problem there.

21
22 But we're getting off topic.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So want to come back
27 on course here. One final question. We've got people
28 who want to go to break.

29
30 Go ahead, Tim.

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: I don't have a question.
33 I just want to clarify some of these numbers that are
34 being thrown around. I got information yesterday on
35 this -- these Bering Sea bycatch reports from NOAA.
36 And so 2016 was approximately 22,000 kings. That
37 doesn't count Gulf of Alaska, which is a different
38 area.

39
40 And then Commissioner Cotten is still
41 on the North Pacific Council because he has a -- the
42 seat as the Commissioner of Fish and Game. Has a
43 permanent seat on the Council.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that
46 clarification. So approximately 40 percent of 22,000
47 would be AYK stocks. And so they hit their hard cap
48 though. And didn't they have to cut back? Was that
49 last year?

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Well, that -- this sheet
2 is indicating that they're taking 37 percent of their
3 allowable bycatch.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For 2016.

6
7 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any final
10 comments.

11
12 Gerald.

13
14 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah. I'm sensing you
15 want me to wrap it up. So if I could just make a few
16 more.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. Yes.

19
20 MR. MASCHMANN: Okay. Again, like you
21 said, Jack, we're probably going to manage 2017 very
22 similar to 2016. Start conservative. If it does
23 appear that the chinook runs are trending up and we're
24 optimistic, we may allow for a little bit more chinook
25 salmon harvest with that seven and a half inch gear.
26 In 2016 we allowed an opening or two in each district
27 to harvest chinook and we may do a little more of that
28 if we're optimistic about the chinook run.

29
30 YRDFA in past -- in the past several
31 years has sponsored or had a preseason meeting for the
32 fishermen and that's going to be happening again this
33 year. I don't know if -- if, Fred, you've been to that
34 or if you'll be going to the YRDFA preseason meeting.
35 That's where we get all the fishermen together and say
36 here's what we did last year and here's what we think
37 we want to do in 2017, what do you think.

38
39 And we definitely appreciate the
40 fishermen's input. We know they've been sacrificing.
41 We've heard it. And we appreciate their compliance.
42 We know that when fishermen are informed, they're more
43 likely to conserve and follow the rules. And we
44 definitely appreciate that as managers.

45
46 The FRMP, the Fisheries Resource
47 Monitoring Projects. We have the Andreafsky River weir
48 and Gisasa River weir have applied for funding. Those
49 are important for managers. And you'll be reviewing
50

1 those along with other projects that have been
2 submitted I believe this fall or next spring. And, you
3 know, we appreciate you, the Council supporting those
4 projects. And if you have any questions about those,
5 please ask us.

6
7 And if Fish and Game -- the Federal
8 Subsistence Board did pass some Yukon River fisheries.
9 I don't know if you want to review those now or take
10 your break. Or -- and I know Tim had questions about
11 the State Board of Fish actions that were taken in
12 January of 2016 and how those might have been
13 implemented this year. So.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, at this time
16 we'll take a break. A 15-minute break. It's 10:40.
17 We'll take a 15-minute break and then we'll continue
18 on.

19
20 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I thought we were
25 going to wrap up. But we'll continue on. I want to
26 cover this fisheries stuff.

27
28 (Off record)

29
30 (On record)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring
33 this meeting back to order. And we're going to
34 complete this fisheries preseason update for the
35 Council.

36
37 Go ahead, Gerald.

38
39 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Chair.

40
41 Just to wrap this up, recently the
42 Federal Subsistence Board took action on Yukon area
43 fisheries and there's -- there are three new
44 regulations I think are significant that I wanted to
45 mention.

46
47 One is in Subdistrict 5D. During in-
48 season subsistence fisheries closures you may take
49 salmon for subsistence use once the midrange of the
50

1 Canadian interim management escapement goal and the
2 total allowable catch goal are projected to be achieved
3 and announced by the Federal in-season manager. And so
4 that was I think in response that 5D was watching Eagle
5 sonar numbers go up and up and up. And they were
6 frustrated because they were -- felt like we were going
7 to meet the goal and why should they sit on the bank,
8 and so I think that was in response to that.

9
10 And so this gives the Federal manager
11 the ability to -- once the Federal manager feels that
12 we're going to reach our goal at the Eagle sonar, then
13 he could allow fishing for Federal qualified users.
14 We're thinking about how this might or might not be
15 implemented. It's something I think the managers are
16 going to do anyway, so it may be a moot point. But it
17 does give the Federal manager some flexibility if he
18 needs it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the term that
21 they -- that the Board stayed with was projected to
22 meet the escapement.

23
24 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know, it was
27 back and forth between met or projected, and so the
28 Board stayed with projected.

29
30 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes. 5D is a big
31 district. And if you waited till it was met, then it's
32 pretty much over for most of 5D. So as managers, we're
33 constantly projecting what the run's going to be and
34 making decisions based upon a projection and so it was
35 felt that would give the manager the most flexibility.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was satisfied with
38 that.

39
40 MR. MASCHMANN: All right. And then
41 FP1703 is essentially providing Subdistricts 4A with
42 the oper -- the -- gives the Federal manager the
43 opportunity to provide drift gillnet fishing for chum
44 in Subdistricts 4A if it's needed.

45
46 That mirrors a State regulation that's
47 giving the State managers the option under emergency
48 order to give Subdistrict 4A fishermen the ability to
49 drift for chum. And we felt it was -- this was a
50

1 decent proposal because, you know, we want to give
2 opportunity. Because people are struggling to get
3 chinook, we wanted to give them as much opportunity on
4 the chum if they wanted it and so this gives them the
5 ability or the -- gives the manager the option to open
6 chum fishing for Subdistrict 4A.

7
8 And then FP1704, again it's similar to
9 the State regulation. It basically was put in by folks
10 from Huslia who wanted to stretch a little more net
11 over Race Track Slough and -- on the Koyukuk River and
12 sloughs of the Huslia River to give them a little more
13 opportunity. And so that -- it doesn't quite mirror
14 the State reg, but it's very close to the State
15 regulation that was passed.

16
17 So again it just gives those fishermen
18 a little more opportunity to fish for other species
19 besides salmon.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any comments
22 on that.

23
24 Darrel.

25
26 MR. VENT: Yeah. I remember we spoke
27 with that this -- earlier this year. And we had to try
28 to adjust to what the State regs want in there and just
29 so our people don't lose their nets somewhere because
30 we were kind of worried about that. Didn't want to
31 fish for the fish anymore because they were -- they
32 lost two nets already and they didn't want, you know,
33 it's pretty costly to lose those kind of nets.

34
35 So I guess, you know, they're happy at
36 what -- happy with what the regulation states now.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. This
39 was a proposal driven by Huslia, Jack Wholecheese and
40 Darrel there were the driving force of that.

41
42 So continue.

43
44 MR. MASCHMANN: I was just going to --
45 if Holly or Jeff had any more -- anything they'd like
46 to say, I'm done. I know maybe Tim had some questions
47 or comments about how the State Board of Fish new
48 regulations were implemented in 2016 and if he wants to
49 discuss those, we can. Or.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're on the phone
2 still, Holly and Jeff?

3
4 MS. CARROLL: Yeah. I'm here, Mr.
5 Chair. I don't have anything to add to what Gerald's
6 said, but I'm happy to stand by for any questions you
7 have.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

10
11 MR. ESTENSEN: And Mr. Chair, this is
12 Jeff.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

15
16 So do you have a question there, Tim?

17
18 MR. GERVAIS: Sure. The most important
19 thing I'd like to convey to the in-season managers for
20 all the species is it was really a great performance
21 for 2016. So I know it's a difficult job to try to
22 manage the river and provide, you know, subsistence
23 opportunity and meet your escapement goals and
24 commercial opportunities. So I was -- I thought when
25 it was all said and done that it worked out really
26 great for it seems like the entire river, including the
27 Canadian folks.

28
29 So this Council discussed, let me get
30 my timing right here, fall of 2015, when we were
31 looking at Board of Fish proposals that we didn't feel
32 like beach seine gear was appropriate to use in river.
33 We didn't feel it was appropriate to have the
34 specifications of the beach seine gear be 150 fathoms
35 and we also didn't want to expand the areas that were
36 allowable for harvesting in District 1.

37
38 So just to -- for the sake of this
39 conversation I'm just going to review for the Council
40 what did get passed in that January of 2016 Board of
41 Fish meeting for Yukon River. And so Proposal 118
42 carried, all these proposals carried unanimously seven
43 to zero. That established beach seine to be used for
44 subsistence fishing in the Yukon area.

45
46 Proposal 122 specified the aggregate
47 length for set gillnet gear for commercial use at 150
48 fathoms, which is 750 foot a net. That carried seven-
49 zero.

50

1 Proposal 123 further defined the
2 specifications of the beach seine at 150 fathoms or 750
3 feet.

4
5 And then established an entire new
6 commercial fishery in Districts 1 through 3. Pink
7 salmon, with 150 fathoms worth of gear. That passed
8 seven to zero.

9
10 And then it expanded commercial fishing
11 area from what had previously been one mile to the
12 three mile limit. And it also extended the -- where
13 the area -- extended the boundary -- the open fishing
14 boundary north to Point Romanof.

15
16 So there -- all these proposals passed
17 seven to zero.

18
19 And it was just -- it was really
20 stunning because beach seine gear is a really, really
21 effective means of harvesting fish. There is
22 approximately , and if I misstate something here, feel
23 free to jump in on -- let me know that I'm saying the
24 wrong information.

25
26 I think there's 400 -- approximately
27 460 permits for Lower Yukon. So when you have 750 feet
28 of either set net gear or beach seine gear multiplied
29 by that many permit holders, that's a lot of --
30 incredible amount of fishing power. And as far as I
31 know, that's the only fishery in the State -- only
32 District -- only management area in the State where
33 beach seine gear is allowed in river.

34
35 In the other places in the State where
36 there is beach seine gear there is specific regulations
37 that keep the operators a certain amount of distance
38 away from river mouths, creek mouths to prevent the
39 over harvest of fish on the spawning streams.

40
41 So the purpose of the beach seine gear
42 I believe is to allow the commercial users in the lower
43 river to be able to harvest chum and potentially coho
44 salmon while the king run is going on and be able to
45 release the king salmon. I appreciate in your season
46 summaries on page eight that you did give these numbers
47 of -- I'll call them -- I'll refer to them as bycatch.
48 Is there another term you use to refer to these fish
49 that are caught and release -- catch and release fish?

50

1 Could I -- is bycatch okay for this conversation?

2

3 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair. I
4 think the Department likes to call them incidentally
5 caught.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So incidentally
8 caught king salmon during the beach seine and dipnet
9 fisheries, I'll just call that 1 and 2, it's not -- it
10 doesn't really matter for this discussion which
11 District it came out of, there was 332 permits fishing
12 dipnet gear for summer chum and pink salmon and they
13 caught approximately 8,000 -- caught and released 8,000
14 king salmon. And then eight permit holders elected to
15 use beach seine gear and they caught 163 king salmon.
16 So it was a total for Districts 1 and District 2 of 340
17 permits fishing this selective gear types, the dipnet
18 and the beach seine, and they caught, caught and
19 released 8,207 king salmon, or that's what they
20 reported.

21

22 The issues that I am concerned with is
23 that the 8,200 king salmon is a lot of fish. I don't
24 think it should be accepted that those fish all lived
25 or were either not stressed to a significant degree or
26 they encountered problems with getting like their slime
27 layer scraped off, which makes them more prone to
28 infection. Maybe if they're spawning in the lower
29 river, Andreafsky or Gisasa, maybe they could survive
30 some kind of injury from being caught and released as
31 incidental catch and still make the spawning grounds,
32 but I don't feel that like for fish that are going to
33 swim 2,400 miles into Canada, Adeline Lake, they're not
34 going to be able to recover enough from being caught in
35 a beach seine or a dipnet to be able to continue for
36 another 2,400 miles and be spawners.

37

38 So what I would like the managers to do
39 is to be interested in trying to figure out if the
40 reporting system for these amount of incidental catches
41 is accurate. It's kind of a number where it's just
42 report on a fish ticket. I know from all the other
43 salmon fisheries I have participated in around the
44 State that even though by regulation it says that the
45 amount of king salmon you're keeping for personal use
46 is supposed to be recorded, it almost never is.

47

48 And in certain places, like Bristol Bay
49 or Chignik, I would think less than five percent of the
50

1 personal use salmon is recorded on a fish ticket. It's
2 partially the fisherman's fault and it's partially the
3 tender's fault. They don't -- it's like an additional
4 reporting burden and it doesn't get recorded, so
5 there's not -- at least in those fisheries it's not a -
6 - the amount of personal use king salmon that are
7 caught is not accurate.

8
9 And then there is, you know, there's
10 quite a bit of information out there about how to
11 release a fish. When you talk to -- when you look at
12 Fish and Game's own website where they have how to
13 release a fish for sport fishermen, they're supposed to
14 use nets that are either rubber nets or knotless
15 webbing. They're not supposed to take the fish out of
16 the water. They're supposed to hold the fish vertical
17 into the current and allow for the fish to revive
18 itself. And that type of release technique does not
19 lend itself to commercial fishing. It just -- there's
20 too much pressure to catch and harvest fish. They
21 can't -- the care can't be given that these kings that
22 are released are receiving the best possible care.

23
24 And they've tried to do -- conduct --
25 or they have conducted commercial fisheries on the
26 Columbia River where they were gillnetting king salmon
27 and they were using a tangle net to try to minimize the
28 damage. The fishermen were required to put the fish in
29 a, I believe the term is called a revival box, where
30 there's pumped water through that box. The fisherman
31 takes the fish out of the net. If it's a hatchery
32 fish, they get to keep it. If it's a wild stock fish,
33 they have to return it to the river. But they have to
34 put it in this revival box for some amount of time, ten
35 or fifteen minutes. They have to go through a
36 checklist to make sure that the fish is okay and then
37 they can release that fish out of the revival box.

38
39 So this idea of like catching and
40 releasing incidental salmon and having them live is --
41 I just don't -- I want this Council to know and I want
42 all the users out on the Yukon to know that if there's
43 8,200 incidentally harvested salmon, king salmon in
44 these chum and coho fisheries, that you don't -- that
45 there's some portion of that which is unknown to me,
46 unknown to probably anybody right now, what the
47 mortality or injury rate of those fish is.

48
49 And at this point, being the first year
50

1 of the beach seine, eight permits fishing -- catching
2 163 salmon -- that's a -- you know, approximately 20
3 fish per operation. That's not bad if there's a high
4 percentage of those fish surviving. But we don't -- by
5 regulation we could have somewhere between 300 and 400
6 people using beach seines over the next five years.
7 And then that amount of harvesting power is staggering.
8 Stunning and staggering.

9
10 But we'll have to see. Right now,
11 based on what they caught it didn't look like there was
12 that very good success. But it's only the first year.
13 It's a new fishery. So things could change. And it's
14 in -- it's already in the Statute that it's allowable
15 to do that. So I want this Council and the in-season
16 managers to keep an eye on this incidental harvest
17 rate. And we had a lot of kings this year. Most of
18 the households that were targeting them got some, but
19 that wasn't true, you know, in '12, '13 -- or excuse me
20 -- '13, '14, and '15.

21
22 And so I feel that the beach seine gear
23 in particular is -- has real potential to over harvest
24 and create a lot of mortality for these incidentally
25 caught king salmon. At this point it's debatable, but
26 it's -- the number's not too out of hand, but as the
27 beach seine technique continues to grow, if it does
28 grow in popularity, I think we need to keep an eye on
29 it. And I would prefer it if there could be more
30 checks and balances in the reporting system so it's
31 just not a voluntary saying, oh, we just -- only caught
32 this many. And I wish there was a protocol on how
33 these fishermen are going to release this fish to --
34 what techniques they're going to use to re-release them
35 in the river that's going to ensure survivability of
36 these fish.

37
38 It's, to me, a fish that's just entered
39 the river that much, they've already got a lot going on
40 in their head. Like they just changed to a freshwater
41 environment. They just changed from clear water to
42 silty water. And now they're like getting caught in a
43 beach seine and re-released. That's a stunning amount
44 of hardship for any creature to try to endure.

45
46 And I just -- I am not completely on
47 board with -- that these proposals were actually turned
48 into Statute and I want to -- I want to keep track of
49 what's going on. And I encourage Fish and Wildlife
50

1 Service and Department of Fish and Game to try to
2 accurately quantify what the mortality is and look at
3 ways that can increase the survival rate of the
4 incidentally caught and released salmon.

5

6

And that's mostly what I have.

7

8

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tim.

9

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I, too, used to fish in Bristol Bay.
I'd say that I don't know that anybody reports chinook
take for home pack. People throw them -- there were a
lot of times they were cutting them and throwing them
in salt while they're drifting and stuff and they don't
report those on the ticket.

I would be -- I would say that Tim is
right. This 8,200 number is probably an absolute
minimum. The Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
do not have a mortality indexes of -- and we cautioned
under that drift -- the beach seine. 150 fathoms of
gear, 900 feet of gear comes up on the beach. There's
going to be chums and kings thrashing all around in the
mud and the sand and they're going to get beat up and
full of sand in their gills and stuff. There's got to
be a fairly high mortality. By the time the crew gets
out there and gets those and tosses them back over the
cork line into the river, they've been really hurt.

There is no incident harvest mortality
factor with this type of gear. This is just by guess
and by golly. I guess they must live. But when they
put those telemetry -- those stuff those esophageal
tags down those fish's -- there was a certain amount of
those fish getting caught in a gillnet for a few
minutes, they pulled them out, stuffed a transmitter
down their throat and let them go, they went back down
the river.

Remember that, Tom? Yeah. There's a
certain amount of fish even when handled absolutely as
good as you can turned around and did not go up the
river. They like went back to the ocean or somewhere.

So the Department makes these giant
assumptions. Managers make these giant assumptions
that this method must let them go back up the river.
It's like no, not -- and especially beach seining like
that. They're in the gear for several minutes -- 20

1 minutes, 20 minutes laying around, rolling around in
2 the mud. That's a huge impact to that fish. Its
3 likelihood of continuing to the destination is low.

4
5 The other thing that I've talked and
6 talked about is six inch gear, the drop out mortality.
7 You catch kings and the assumption is we only got so
8 many kings in six inch gear. There's a whole bunch of
9 kings that fell out of the net. It's rough. The
10 gear's jerking and the boat's jerking and it drops all
11 the fish.

12
13 And the harvest power of increasing to
14 150 fathoms. Multiplying the availability for the
15 permit holders by three times when we have low returns.
16 That like -- I'm a little, I couldn't believe the Board
17 of Fish went in that direction with set net and beach
18 seine.

19
20 But that's all.

21
22 But what this Council is saying, and I
23 fully agree with Tim, is those 8,200 numbers are
24 absolute minimum that got put into the water and
25 whether they survived or not especially in beach seine
26 is very debatable.

27
28 You need a mortality study to actually
29 quantify what's that actually doing to the fishery.
30 Even when they had live boxes on the Yukon, they would
31 catch those fish and they'd put them in live boxes.
32 The fish would die in the box. They'd put them back in
33 the water. They ended up dying. They didn't go on.
34 That's why they went to the video wheel. To let them -
35 - to put them back into the water right away. Even
36 holding king salmon for a very long time in a live box
37 kills them. Or they don't go up the river. One or the
38 other.

39
40 So that's -- I fully agree with what
41 Tim is saying on this issue. These are the regulations
42 that the Board of Fish has put in place. The managers
43 make these assumptions that oh, these fish bounce off
44 six inch gear and they keep going up the river when we
45 throw them back out of a beach seine. No. Not
46 necessarily. And the number of retention can be
47 significantly higher than what's being reported.

48
49 I would say it would be, like in
50

1 Bristol Bay maybe five percent. Yeah. Maybe it's five
2 percent. On a fishery like on the Lower Yukon where
3 they've had big restrictions, they probably throw all
4 kinds of fish in the boat and go home. They're not
5 going to worry about it. Yeah. Come down here and get
6 these fish. They call on this VHF radio, come down and
7 get these fish. Get them. Start cutting them and
8 stuff. They're not going to go take them to the
9 tender. They're going to get somebody to come get them
10 and take them home.

11
12 So these -- this thing is not finished.
13 If we keep being in hardship all the way up this river,
14 we need to really have some harvest mortality factors.
15 We have to have some indexes so that we know that those
16 impacts are to these stocks.

17
18 Fred.

19
20 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Yeah. I'd like to
21 add fishing -- like fishing for chums or, you know, by
22 fish wheels. More they say to catch and release the
23 incidental caught king salmon. It's like what Jack was
24 saying. They don't live.

25
26 Okay. Now that the fishermen are using
27 live chutes. Where the fisherman comes around, they
28 slide down the chute. We've got a chute right there to
29 let them go in the water. Where does the fish go. It
30 don't go that way. It go back down river. You see
31 that fish jumping up down river. Going back. He's
32 happy to get out.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. ALEXIE: You know, and as a
37 fisherman drifting for kings. I am not one of those
38 fisherman that fish out there with every catch I go out
39 there and I check, see what kind of fish that is. No.
40 No. No. I drift till the drift -- wherever --
41 wherever we end. Sometimes that takes 30 minutes.
42 That 30 minute struggle by that fish twisting and
43 turning, especially a big king salmon. By the time you
44 get that thing out, that thing is dying. Unless you
45 just catch it right at the end while you're pulling it
46 in, and then it gets off, when you're putting it in the
47 boat, that king salmon happily jumps off and is jumping
48 off down river.

49
50

1 Again, that's hurting the fish. It
2 don't go back up river. No. And furthermore, if you
3 touch that fish -- just like Tim was saying about
4 handling that fish, we put our dirty hands on that
5 fish, that's something that's not supposed to be done.
6 Well, how do you handle that fish. You know, we tried
7 the live boxes and they struggled in there for what,
8 hour or so. They're not -- they're -- you might as
9 well just take them home and cut them up. And that's
10 what I do.

11
12 If I catch a big king, especially if I
13 struggled with it trying to get that darn thing into
14 the boat so I can get my net free, I'm going to take
15 that fish home. I ain't going to throw the God damn
16 thing back in the water. That's stupid. It's not
17 going to make it.

18
19 So then I just want to further
20 reiterate.

21
22 And about area for summer chums and the
23 bycatch -- the king bycatch. Very seldom that on the
24 south side, off the Yukon that's all going to like
25 Koyukuk River, Nulato River, Kaltag River. It's not
26 going to Canada. It's going local. And by that time
27 they're on this side the meat is so bad, what do I do.
28 I cut it up for dog salmon, dog fish, you know, because
29 it's -- in our way -- my way, you know, we -- we go
30 after the rich kings.

31
32 Okay. That's it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred.

35
36 Final comment, Tim.

37
38 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Just for the
39 record, I want to clarify Jack's math is better than
40 mine. And I was saying through my comments that 750
41 feet is -- 900 feet is the same as 150 fathoms. And
42 then I was -- one reason I asked about the telemetry.
43 That could be one type of technology that might help
44 the managers determine what is the mortality of these
45 fish. If you took a few beach seine operations and
46 they were able to do some telemetry tagging and you
47 could see where these fish ended up. If they did spawn
48 that would be dynamite. If they didn't, we would know
49 what percent of the fish survive.

50

1 And then other than just having this
2 potential mortality in the incidental catch, I'm -- I
3 was kind of affected by these regulations is there's
4 already like a lot of parity between what the
5 commercial -- the commercial opportunities are for
6 Districts 1 and 2 compared to the middle river and the
7 upper river just based on processors and fishing
8 opportunity.

9
10 And I would like to remind people in
11 the Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish and Game that as
12 regulations are developed and commented on, that it
13 doesn't -- just because at this point in time there's
14 only processing capacity down the lower river, there's
15 -- there is people and fishing operations that would
16 like to at some point have access to commercial fishing
17 in the middle and upper river.

18
19 And so I think as Department puts forth
20 proposals and comments on proposals, it doesn't need to
21 just say Y1, Y2, it just should say all the Kuskokwim
22 or all the Yukon. I think it would be a lot -- it
23 would help unify the river if when you were expanding
24 fishing opportunity if it was given to all the users
25 and not just the lower river.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The State
28 comments. You've heard what we've been saying, Holly,
29 on our skepticism regarding survivorship of especially
30 beach seine fish. And I feel the Department should
31 contemplate a mortality study on that gear method since
32 they seem to be a proponent of the beach seine as a
33 savings for chinook. I feel that the Department should
34 at least within the CommFish discuss a mortality and
35 arriving at a mortality indexes. Do you have a comment
36 to that.

37
38 MS. CARROLL: Sure, Mr. Chair. If I
39 may. Holly -- Holly Carroll here. I have a lot of
40 comments. I would like the opportunity to respond
41 because Tim and yourself brought up a lot of really
42 valid concerns, but also some descriptions of the
43 information that I wanted to clarify a little bit just
44 so people aren't misled.

45
46 You're absolutely right that beach
47 seines have a not very well documented mortality. And
48 I was involved in the purse seine proposal and trying
49 to do the research on the mortality of that study and
50

1 so I did do a lot of the literature review. And the
2 studies that one of you mentioned in the Lower Columbia
3 River did assert that beach seines could have a
4 mortality rate of 30 percent. So this is true.

5
6 We do know that those king salmon are
7 likely experiencing trauma in those nets and that it
8 could be affecting mortality. So one of the things I
9 want to address about that is that you're right, we are
10 in a conservation mode as far as king salmon, and to
11 that end, there is no commercial fishing. To that end,
12 subsistence fishing is severely restricted. But when
13 we are managing the runs, we are also trying to manage
14 a summer chum run that's been upwards of 2 million fish
15 and there are also a lot of concerns that when you do
16 not harvest any of the summer chum -- for instance,
17 that larger, more dominant population. When you let
18 all of that available surplus go by to the spawning
19 grounds that that can also have a detrimental effect.

20
21 And so we definitely try to manage
22 these conflicting productivities, if you will, between
23 those two species. And so sure we have restricted
24 commercial fishing entirely for king salmon. And for
25 summer chum salmon we've restricted it pretty severely
26 as well.

27
28 And so one of the things I want to note
29 is that just to clarify on something Tim had said, the
30 beach seines have been in use -- they've been legal as
31 a subsistence gear for some time. And they've been
32 legal for use in the commercial summer chum fishery for
33 quite a while. And it was back in 2012 when the
34 fishermen were being so severely restricted on
35 commercial fishing for chum that they proposed that
36 they be able to use these selective gear types.

37
38 Many people thought they'd be
39 inefficient. Many fishermen did not want to use them.
40 And they have proven that actually they are pretty
41 efficient at catching summer chum. But one of the
42 things I want to clarify in particular about beach
43 seines is that they have been used for a few years.
44 This last year eight permit holders used the beach
45 seine. When that regulation went into effect it did
46 not change the beach seine regulations except to define
47 a maximum limit. It also reduced the mesh size. And
48 it also made it so that fishermen could not use
49 monofilament nets and turn them into beach seines

50

1 because that would cause more entanglement.

2

3 And we've actually seen a decrease in
4 2016 to the number of permit holders fishing the beach
5 seine gear. And we've also seen a decrease in the
6 number of kings caught. And I think that will vary
7 across time. And we've seen that it's varied a little
8 bit.

9

10 One of the things that makes me think
11 that people will not, you know, our 400 permit holders
12 will not convert to becoming beach seine users is that
13 I've watched the operation myself. And it's a highly
14 costly operation. You can't really do it without a
15 four-wheeler. You need a minimum of six to eight
16 people. That's a lot of crew hands that the commercial
17 fisherman has to pay. And then as many of you will
18 know, they have to fish those on shore. And so I don't
19 believe that they are catching an inordinate number of
20 king salmon in that particular gear because they are so
21 limited to being on shore that as you -- many of you
22 know, the king salmon swim a little deeper.

23

24 And so while dipnet fisherman can be
25 anywhere in the river so he could encounter a king or
26 he could encounter a chum, those fishermen are trying
27 to make money off summer chum. They're not going to
28 get paid for king salmon and they have to let those go.
29 So they are doing their best to target that species
30 they're trying to make the money on.

31

32 And with the beach seines I think you
33 have to have a very specific type of beach. It has to
34 be very well cleaned out. It has to have the right
35 kind of flow. And you have to have a big crew. So I
36 really think -- and in the last three years we've seen
37 the permit holders fluctuate between eight and
38 thirteen. I don't think we're going to see 400 beach
39 seine users. I think it's just prohibitively costly.

40

41 But yes, I absolutely understand your
42 concerns about mortality. And so one of the things I
43 wanted to remind you is that the beach seine users did
44 release alive 163 king salmon. That was two percent of
45 the king salmon caught with the selective fishery. So
46 yes, that is a number of fish. And there's also
47 validity to the fact that people may be under reporting
48 that. I don't doubt that there could be a lack of
49 accuracy in reporting, except that we've seen pretty

50

1 consistent reporting.

2

3 And one of the things I'd like to kind
4 of point out about that is yes, while we're allowing
5 for a short period of time before we can go to gillnets
6 in that commercial fishery, we are allowing selective
7 gear. It's a very small percentage of the fishery.
8 It's a small number of openings compared to the total
9 number.

10

11 And when we look at the escapements
12 over the last three years, the escapement -- so if
13 there was a total run last year of 84,000 into Canada,
14 the escapement goal is 42,500 to 55,000. That means
15 that an extra 33,000 king salmon went over the border.
16 If we felt that there was some hidden excessive
17 mortality of king salmon going on because of encounter
18 rates, I think we'd see that at our escapement projects
19 and I think we'd see that in not meeting border
20 objectives.

21

22 And so while it is a totally valid
23 concern that we're aware of, we're watching all of
24 those things to see if there's an indication that
25 that's happening and I'm not seeing that in the data
26 over the last three years.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate
29 your position. And we have enough biomass to meet
30 escapement needs. But in the future, at some point it
31 should -- there should be either a tagging project for
32 -- a tag and recapture indexes or some way of the
33 chinook salmon that are being caught on the beach
34 seine. We have to figure out how many are actually
35 dying or whatever in case this thing continues to go on
36 and on and on.

37

38 You're correct that there is a need for
39 a specific kind of beach and all that kind of stuff.

40

41 So we do have a lot of agenda today.
42 This is the preseason update. And so we've covered it
43 fairly well.

44

45 Shirley.

46

47 MS. CLARK: Here's a suggestion to the
48 agencies. When I was on the Council, they -- you know,
49 they give out 2 million point something for studies.

50

1 And when I was up there the Americans hardly had any
2 proposals, but the Canadians had three times as much,
3 so maybe that could be used for some mortality studies.
4

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

7
8 MS. CLARK: So the agencies should get
9 some proposals out there.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. There could
12 be -- you know, that -- what we're discussing is that
13 both Fish and Wildlife and ADF&G should develop a study
14 for mortality for especially the beach seine component.
15 If we get right down to, you know, splitting hairs at
16 some point on trying to catch the summer chum and then
17 with a real marginal chinook run, then we have to know
18 what the mortality factor. If it's two percent right
19 now of a big run, it might be -- that might have an
20 impact of ten percent or some other factor. If it's a
21 high mortality, it could be a significant impact to the
22 fishery.

23
24 But we do need to move on in this
25 agenda.

26
27 One real short final comment.

28
29 Tim.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chair. So I didn't want to discount as we were talking
33 about potential studies and whatnot. If the dipnet is
34 going to be the dominant gear for this style of chum or
35 coho fishing, then the -- I would be interested to know
36 what mortality and injury rates are on that.

37
38 If that's the dominant gear type, then
39 that's -- as of what we saw last year, it certainly
40 accounted for most of the incidental harvest. So I
41 think -- I'm not saying that the dipnets are immune to
42 the mortality also, I just -- nobody knows what these
43 numbers are, but they could be useful in our management
44 decisions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that
47 also, Tim.

48
49 So if you're finished with your
50

1 presentation, does Fred Bue want to give any additional
2 -- Fred, you're good?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so thanks so
7 much, Holly and Jeff. You've both been listening to
8 our concerns on these various -- Zach's got a comment.

9
10 Go ahead, Zach.

11
12 MR. STEVENSON: I think it may be worth
13 as a side item clarifying through the Fisheries
14 Resource Monitoring Program to Shirley's point whether
15 or not that program would allow for a proposal to be
16 submitted to address harvest mortality. I don't know
17 if that topic would meet its criteria, but it may be a
18 mechanism to get some information that would be of
19 value to the RAC.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this is a
24 commercial fishery issue. I think the Yukon Panel or
25 some other entity can develop a funding source for this
26 mortality study, which I do feel there needs to be. If
27 this is going to be used, dipnet and beach seine, then
28 we should have an idea. The ones that are being
29 released stick a PIT tag into them and -- or something,
30 some kind of a tag into them and see what -- see how
31 many are surviving. See if any are caught up the river
32 in the subsistence fishery are found in the carcass
33 studies.

34
35 We've got to know what's actually kind
36 of going on. You know, the video wheel or whatever
37 they're using, all these various indexes and these
38 border passage net, Pilot Station net, they could start
39 coming up with an indexes. Those are done routinely,
40 this catch and release capture and mark and recapture.

41
42 So we're going to -- you're done,
43 Gerald?

44
45 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. My
46 report is done. Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So thank you
49 very much. As you can tell, this Council is very
50

1 impassioned with -- about fishery and so we get a
2 little bogged down a little bit.

3
4 So YRDFA.

5
6 We're on Yukon River Fishery, so we're
7 going to have YRDFA come up and give us a short report
8 on the YRDFA issues.

9
10 And then we're going to get into these
11 Agency report. I saw Kenton Moos back there in the
12 back of the room. So he's kind of at the Board of
13 Game, in and out.

14
15 And have you got something, Fred, you
16 raised your hand. Oh, okay.

17
18 MR. BUE: Yeah. I apologize, Mr.
19 Chairman. I don't know if there was miscommunication
20 with what you were asking me about further comments.
21 But there was a -- I think early when we talked about
22 the agenda that you were going to talk about the
23 chinook conservation -- or Comprehensive Salmon Plan
24 for the Yukon River and.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. We
27 do.....

28
29 MR. BUE:and the propagation
30 section there.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So okay. We'll take
33 that. And then.....

34
35 MR. STEVENSON: Do you want to do that
36 first?

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Great.

41
42 MR. BUE: I apologize.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. State
45 your name for the record.

46
47 MR. STARK: My name is Chris Stark.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your mic on.

50

1 MR. STARK: My name is Chris Stark.
2 I'm a biologist for Bering Sea Fishermen's Association.
3 I'm stepping in for Jill Klein, the Commissioner's
4 Office at ADF&G. She has a prepared statement. I
5 chopped a few things out of it, so try to keep what she
6 had written brief and take questions at the end.

7
8 This is -- what we're doing is an
9 updating to the Yukon River Comprehensive Salmon Plan
10 which was previously done -- finished in 1998. And
11 I'll just start into -- Regional Salmon Plans and
12 Regional Associations are authorized by the State
13 Statutes and Regional Planning Teams are established by
14 the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game,
15 who is authorized through regulation to develop these
16 plans.

17
18 The Yukon River Planning Team consists
19 of 13 voting members. Nine of which are Yukon River
20 Drainage Association YRDFA Board Members. Pollock
21 Simon is one of those members on this particular team.
22 These members represent all of the different fishing
23 Districts 1 through 6 without the -- throughout the
24 Yukon Drainage.

25
26 The original Planning Team was also
27 created under a cooperative agreement between Bering
28 Sea Fishermen's Association, YRDFA, and ADF&G. The
29 full YRDFA Board at that time was used to fulfill the
30 role of what's an RAA, which is a Regional Aquacultural
31 Association. Regional Aquacultural Associations are --
32 I'm not exactly sure the number, but an example would
33 be Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association, PWSAC,
34 Southeast Aquaculture Associations. Those generally
35 just have three Board Members. In the Yukon's case
36 just because of precedent set back in '98, this team
37 has 13 members. Four ADF&G and nine rural members.

38
39 In your meeting packet you have a
40 letter on page 30 that authorizes the use of the -- not
41 the use, the volunteerism I think is how I'd phrase
42 that of YRDFA Board Members to function as a part of
43 the 13 member RAA, Regional Planning Team, which is
44 normally a three person team. So -- and it may develop
45 into a three person team after this next plan is
46 finished. We'll see where that goes.

47
48 But it's a little more complex and I'm
49 going off script here.

50

1 It's the responsibility of the Regional
2 Planning Team to prepare and in this case update a
3 Comprehensive Salmon Plan, which was originally done in
4 1998. This is called Phase 2. And what we're going to
5 be working on is addressing our Regional projects,
6 that's within the Yukon River Drainage on the U.S.
7 side, to rehabilitate and/or enhance natural production
8 of wild stocks through the use of potentially public
9 and private non-profit hatcheries.

10
11 Through this process the RPT will
12 assess the harvest goals of the user groups and ensure
13 that the public has an opportunity to participate in
14 the development of the plan. To date, the plan has met
15 three -- the team has met three times and has been
16 working on the missions, goals, and strategies and
17 specifically on the guiding principles and assumptions
18 to assess on how to go about further enhancing or
19 rehabilitating Yukon salmon stocks, and this is all
20 stocks we're looking at.

21
22 Tentative timeline of the plan is to
23 have a large river-wide meeting on April 20th, coming
24 up the day after the summer preseason meeting. Also,
25 the RPT is actually going to be meeting here in about
26 two weeks here in Fairbanks to assess what to be
27 presenting at the meeting on April 20th.

28
29 A draft review of this plan will be
30 available this fall, we hope. Public-wide
31 distribution. We'll send it out to probably -- well,
32 for sure every village council. Every group we can get
33 our hands on so we can have a wide distribution. Thus
34 far we have contracted -- or contacted in excess of
35 3,000 people, trying to get input and we're following
36 through over time.

37
38 So even though we've been running for a
39 year, we're still trying to begin the information
40 collection and melting it down into the plan. I
41 actually have a few of the old plans if you guys are
42 interested in having your own copy. And I'll certain
43 pass -- forward to you any information and updates as
44 we progress through this process.

45
46 I think that about sums it up.

47
48 Ready for questions.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Council
2 Member questions on the Yukon River Comprehensive
3 Salmon Management Plan planning update.

4
5 MR. STARK: Oh. It's not Salmon
6 Management Plan. It's a -- let me get you a copy and
7 just throw it up here.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yukon River
10 Comprehensive Salmon Plan.

11
12 MR. STARK: Correct.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And its update from
15 1998.

16
17 MR. STARK: That's correct.

18
19 And Darrel, you had a question.

20
21 MR. VENT: Yeah. He mentioned
22 something about hatcheries. I'd like him to explain
23 more what he's talking about there.

24
25 MR. STARK: Yeah. That's usually the
26 sticky point of this whole conversation is what are you
27 talking about hatcheries. Let me just give you a quick
28 history of the old plan.

29
30 This is the plan that was finished in
31 1998. They explicitly said we do not want large
32 hatcheries. That was the users' planning team's
33 decision and it's written down and that's the way that
34 proceeding -- if someone was to say I would like to put
35 a hatchery in the Yukon, because of this plan -- this
36 plan still stands -- is that the State of Alaska, who
37 does all the professional reviews and makes sure that
38 these hatcheries are appropriate for the situation,
39 they would review that, but they would come to this
40 plan and they'd say the users don't want a large plant.
41 Can't happen. That's the end of that.

42
43 This new plan is reviewing the old
44 plan.

45
46 Going out to the public and saying do
47 you want hatcheries now. Do you want this. Do you
48 want small hatcheries. What do you want. And that's
49 the guiding principles that we're going through.

50

1 And we are a year into it. And so we
2 have another roughly year to smooth it out and figure
3 out where it is. So in theory everybody in this room
4 who has something to do with the Yukon should be able
5 to weigh in on this.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments on
8 the -- go ahead, Tim.

9
10 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 I had a question. Is the Bering Sea
13 Fishermen's Association -- is that set up in similar
14 grounds or pattern as YRDFA? Or I don't.....

15
16 MR. STARK: Yes.

17
18 MR. GERVAIS: I've never been able to
19 quite figure out.....

20
21 MR. STARK: Yes.

22
23 MR. GERVAIS:what your -- I see
24 you do a lot of great work, but I didn't know.

25
26 MR. STARK: Would you like a brief
27 explana.....

28
29 MR. GERVAIS:the origin of what
30 you are.

31
32 MR. STARK: I can really easily explain
33 where we're at and where we come from. Bering Sea
34 Fishermen's Association is a non-governmental
35 organization as a non-profit. So we're under the
36 Federal tax code of a 501c3. YRDFA similarly is under
37 the exact same Statute.

38
39 So what we do is we go out and advocate
40 for things. We can't be politically inclined. That's
41 one thing we can't do. We can go to anybody and ask
42 for money and say hey, let's advocate for this. The
43 Bering Sea's first program was the CDQ program, I
44 believe, back in 1979. We think we actually helped
45 develop YRDFA. So different NGOs do different actual
46 aspects of that sort of thing. We just think we're
47 cheaper.

48
49 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

50

1 MR. STARK: Less expensive. Excuse me.
2 I keep getting that wrong.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Other
7 comments.

8
9 When you start talking about
10 hatcheries, red flags come up especially on complex
11 stocks like the Yukon River, distance to destination.
12 Genetic makeups and all of the various nuances of this
13 very complex fishery. And so I get real edgy about
14 talking about -- I mean dumping chums in -- in Haines
15 is a heck of a lot different than dumping chinook smolt
16 in the Yukon River Drainages and expecting them to
17 perform like they're supposed to and what that might do
18 to other -- to the resident indigenous stocks.

19
20 Comments from the Council on the plan.

21
22 I do want to be involved in, you know,
23 find out what happens after your April -- April 20th
24 you're going to meet and you're going to come up with
25 some kind of -- what you're going to do at your meeting
26 after the YRDFA meeting.

27
28 MR. STARK: It goes something like
29 this, in my understanding, is that in about two weeks
30 we're going to have a meeting in Fairbanks, which is
31 where we're going to plan on what exactly we're going
32 to be presenting at the April 20th meeting, which will
33 culminate into what we're going to take out to the
34 public hopefully over this summer and fall so we can
35 formulate the rest of the plan.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. After two
38 weeks you'll have some idea of what you're going to
39 present to the April 20 meeting. And I want -- would
40 like that transmitted to our Council Coordinator so
41 this Council.....

42
43 MR. STARK: Absolutely.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:all Council
46 Members can receive that information to get an idea of
47 what's being proposed at the April 20 meeting.

48
49 And Fred.

50

1 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Furthermore on that
2 hatchery. And like our Chair was saying, it's a touchy
3 issue, especially when it comes down to the pristine
4 king salmon return. I was against it for a lot years
5 and I'm kind of halfway proned right now into saying
6 hey, you know, for a lot of years we take and take and
7 take. We don't give back. We don't try to help.

8
9 And if there's a better way I would
10 like us Board Members to hear about that.

11
12 That's all I've got.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Not that, you
15 know, there's going to be complete opposition, but I do
16 feel that hatchery stocks cannot -- Canada has hatchery
17 stocks, they do go up the Yukon River. But I don't
18 want to see management modification of prosecution of
19 the fisheries because we've got this ace in the hole of
20 all these hatchery fish. So we could just fix our
21 biological problems. I want to maintain the resident
22 stocks to the highest degree.

23
24 And so when you start in your pre-
25 meeting, I want you to talk about maintaining the
26 indigenous stocks as the apex. Supplementing with
27 hatcheries just strictly in a secondary. And the
28 management -- State and Federal Management should never
29 be reliant on hatchery stocks to get themselves --
30 paint themselves into a corner and think we're going to
31 shoot our way back out with hatchery fish. Don't want
32 to go there.

33
34 But I do want this Council to be
35 comprised of what's actually going on at your meeting
36 for April 20.

37
38 Thanks for your presentation.

39
40 MR. STARK: You're welcome.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One final comment,
43 Tim.

44
45 MR. STARK: Go ahead.

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Can you inform our
48 Council what the current production is at the
49 Whitehorse hatchery, if that's the only hatchery?

50

1 MR. STARK: I certainly can. Yeah.
2 Yeah. They release about somewhere between 150,000 and
3 200,000 somewhat smolt or fry in their case, but they
4 actually act as smolt. And this is where someone's
5 concerns -- well, they didn't act like hatchery fish --
6 or wild fish. They don't. They actually just take off
7 for the ocean one year early than the other stocks.
8 But because they're bigger, ready, they go, and so they
9 return about one percent -- about 1,000 to 2,000 fish
10 annual out of that, so about a one percent return on
11 the case.

12
13 If I might add, Chair, a comment.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.

16
17 MR. STARK: About your concerns that
18 while people are going to be uptight about this, and
19 they're appropriately so, the plan is actually designed
20 -- and the State is fully on board -- but this is how
21 it works; is wild stocks first, foremost, and always.
22 There used to be no effect -- no known effect on wild
23 stocks by a hatchery.

24
25 And you're correct.

26
27 Someplace down in Southeast, off an
28 island that doesn't have a wild run, the present rules
29 are kind of 50 kilometers away from the nearest wild
30 run. How that would work on the Yukon is a complex --
31 complex beyond my imagination, how are you doing to do
32 that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
35 (Affirmative)

36
37 MR. STARK: So the one case, which is a
38 mitigation hatchery by the way at Whitehorse. It's not
39 really a production hatchery. It's trying to take care
40 of what they maybe had them -- make them when they put
41 the dam in and they couldn't get the fish
42 (indiscernible) to work right or whatever. That's a
43 mitigation hatchery. And so they're really not trying
44 to mass produce. Canada is however doing many, many
45 programs to enhance their stocks. Enhance their stocks
46 via habitat manipulation and out plant similar as to
47 what they're doing in Norton Sound.

48
49 So not big hatcheries. Chinook
50

1 hatcheries, by the way, are fairly uneconomical.
2 You've got to hold onto the fish for a long time, so
3 it's a really rough way to make money. And presently
4 in the State of Alaska I'm not so sure anyone's really
5 outright making money with chinook. But we'll see.
6 That's not my thing. I'm just the informer and the
7 messenger.

8
9 And I want to emphasize that Bering
10 Sea's really the outfit that's carrying this process
11 through, we're not an advocate one way or another.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

14
15 MR. STARK: You can count I'm a wild
16 fish guy like you can't believe.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Dennis.

19
20 MR. THOMAS: Okay. For everything you
21 read about that your hatchery fish is nowhere near as
22 healthy as what your wild fish are, then I keep saying
23 to myself why do they persist in going after something
24 like this.

25
26 MR. STARK: Well.....

27
28 MR. THOMAS: What would you give as the
29 reason, yeah. We're going to go do hatchery fish.

30
31 MR. STARK: I can give you several
32 different.....

33
34 MR. THOMAS: What's so good about it.

35
36 MR. STARK:scenarios. The most
37 recent scenario for producing king salmon in the State
38 of Alaska is the Ship Creek hatchery. It's a \$140
39 million hatchery. It's right downtown Anchorage. It's
40 got a hugely popular sportfishing right in front of the
41 shop. Right there.

42
43 They take those smolt or fry from that
44 hatchery and distribute them around the area and those
45 fisheries are also somewhat popular. So that hatchery
46 is I believe entirely funded by tax dollars from sport
47 fish gear.

48
49 The commercial hatcheries are a

50

1 different way to go about business. Most of them are
2 converted State hatcheries. So.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those would be
5 Dingle fund and the.....

6
7 MR. STARK: Absolutely.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:salmon
10 stand.....

11
12 MR. STARK: Correct. Hatchery in
13 Fairbanks is the same thing.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

16
17 MR. THOMAS: So you're saying one
18 hatchery is better than another one.

19
20 MR. STARK: No. I'm saying somebody
21 else is paying for those other hatcheries. In the case
22 of a private, non-profit hatchery, given the State's
23 situation, I don't think they're going to hand out
24 money for hatcheries, but you never know.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think we've
27 covered this. And we've got a lot of agenda.

28
29 Thanks so much.

30
31 MR. STARK: Yep.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that.

34
35 So yeah, we got a little bogged down
36 there on this fishery stuff. It is 12:00 o'clock. And
37 we can break for lunch and come back around ten after
38 1:00 or so. But we've got a lot of agenda to complete.
39 Unfortunately, we had some Agency reports and some
40 other stuff that people were coming in for that so
41 we're on hold. We're going to get to YRDFA next. Then
42 we're going to go into the.....

43
44 MR. THOMAS: What's next?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: YRDFA, Yukon River
47 Fisheries Drainage Association.

48
49 MR. THOMAS: Who in the hell is that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then -- you'll
2 see.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then we're going
7 to go into the Agency report.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at 20
14 after. Actually, 24 after 1:00 o'clock. I did get a
15 call from Stewart Cogswell that wants to give us a real
16 brief -- he has a meeting at 2:00 o'clock, so we'll
17 give him an opportunity.

18
19 Then we're going to go to Fred Bue.

20
21 Then we're going to do YRDFA.

22
23 Then we're going to go to the Agency
24 Reports. And so.....

25
26 MR. STEVENSON: And the LCCs, too, as
27 well.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: And the LCC update as
32 well?

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so are you on
39 the phone there, Stewart?

40
41 MR. COGSWELL: Yes. I am.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So go right
44 ahead. Give the Council your update.

45
46 MR. COGSWELL: All right. Through the
47 Chair. My name is Stewart Cogswell. I'm the acting
48 Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the Office of
49 Subsistence Management. And I'm in Anchorage today and
50

1 I would just like to talk about the -- give a brief
2 update on where we're at and where we're heading with
3 the partnership project.

4
5 So I'll just give you a brief history
6 of where we're at and kind of the genesis of the
7 project.

8
9 In 2014, Deputy Secretary of Interior
10 Mike O'Connor talked about a plan to get real folks
11 more involved in management activities and the
12 Kuskokwim was chosen as kind of a demonstration area so
13 the -- and the Fish and Wildlife Services charged with
14 implementing that.

15
16 So there was lots of ideas on how that
17 was going to happen and what form it was going to take.
18 And what was settled on was a two-part structure.

19
20 One, the first part was a memorandum of
21 understanding between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service and Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
23 Commission. And that has happened. That MOU is in
24 place and it seems to be working from all accounts
25 fairly well and people enjoy the relationships that
26 have been built through that.

27
28 The second part of that -- of the
29 partnership project was, and this one has taken a
30 little bit longer to get going -- was going to be a
31 subcommittee, a joint subcommittee between the two RACs
32 in the affected area, that being Yukon-Kuskokwim and
33 the Western Interior. And that -- it takes a while
34 because you've got to get it RAC-approved. You've got
35 to bring it to the Federal Subsistence Board.

36
37 So while we were waiting to get this --
38 we thought we'd be -- we'd have that done this past
39 year, several issues or concerns came up with that
40 subcommittee and basically it's not being optimal for
41 what it could be. So we decided to take a look at that
42 to address people's concerns. Those concerns were
43 basically the subcommittee would meet alongside the RAC
44 during the RAC meeting and wouldn't really have a
45 direct voice into in-season management. It would be --
46 so that was one.

47
48 Another one would be it's interject
49 another kind of group on the Kusko, and that, you know,
50

1 may add to confusion or overtax people -- the current
2 people who are serving within the area.

3
4 And the other one, the last one was to
5 have a non-Tribal role voice in the mix so that their
6 concerns are heard.

7
8 So those things all kind of were things
9 that the subcommittee didn't necessarily address fully.

10
11
12 So before we went ahead just with
13 something that may have continued to have concerns with
14 having folks' input heard, we talked about well, what
15 does -- before we do this, let's just look at all the
16 options. What is the best -- what can we do that would
17 best meet the -- everyone's needs.

18
19 And we kind of turned a little bit away
20 from the subcommittee back to what the original idea
21 was. And that was to have a FACA certified group on
22 the Kusko. So that's a government certification so to
23 speak. Kind of like the RAC is. It would be an
24 advisory committee just like -- not like the RACs, but
25 it would be an advisory committee. Kind of like the
26 State Salmon Working Group is now. So that's kind of
27 where we're at. We're looking at the options.

28
29 There's a group of folks from the
30 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission, the
31 Regional Advisory Councils, the State, and the Fish and
32 Wildlife Service and OSM -- they're looking into all
33 the options and what would that look like. And
34 everyone -- I can say everyone that's been involved
35 likes the idea of this Federal group. The details have
36 to be worked out.

37
38 There's been a -- kind of a large --
39 probably 12 to 15 folks from all those agencies kind of
40 involved in kind of asking the questions. And then
41 they -- a small subset of those folks have been working
42 on the details. How is this going to work. How are
43 the State and Feds going to work together. How we're
44 going to get input from the RACs. How we're going to
45 get input from, you know, everyone that's --
46 representatives from all the different entities up on
47 the Kusko.

48
49 So that's kind of where we're at right
50

1 now. And actually at 2:00 o'clock I've got to start
2 getting ready for a meeting with this larger group to
3 actually kind of determine the direction. We've got
4 the -- we have all the information now. And then the
5 larger group wants to kind of just toss it around a
6 little bit to see if this Federal group will be the way
7 to go to meet all the concerns of everyone up there.

8

9

And so that's where we're at.

10

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Nothing's set in stone yet. Nothing's
been decided. But kind of the timeline is this group
will have something -- it includes representative Ray
Collins from your -- your Regional Advisory Council has
been on the group and Bob Aloysius from the Yukon-
Kuskokwim RAC has been on the group.

So we're trying to, you know, by the
fall we're trying to have something -- you know, we'll
probably have something set up before then to the RACs,
but in the fall have it decided upon and then go to the
Board in January for, you know, to start the
implementation process.

So we really want to get going with
that second part of the partnership project. And I'm
really excited about all the support we have from all
the different entities that this is the -- this best
meets the needs of all the representative groups on the
Kuskokwim.

So that's all I have.

I'll try to answer any questions if
anyone has any questions about that.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

MR. COGSWELL: Or you can always call
me later on, too.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,
Stewart. Yeah. I've been wondering what the point of
progress was. This FACA certified group. I think with
my -- I was getting concerned the State would not be
involved in the pilot project to the degree that I feel
they should be and so I think that this is a direction
that this pilot project should go.

1 I am going to be anxious to see what it
2 looks like at our fall meeting. And so if there should
3 be more of a fleshed out version for the fall meeting,
4 so -- correct?

5
6 MR. COGSWELL: Correct. Yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And.....

9
10 MR. COGSWELL: We'll probably have that
11 before that, but.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Council Members
14 comments, questions.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at the fall
19 meeting we'll be looking at this -- at that. That's
20 just sort of an update on the whole InterTribal Kusko
21 pilot project.

22
23 So thank you so much, Stewart.

24
25 MR. COGSWELL: All right. Thanks,
26 Jack.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And.....

29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 I know prior to our meeting I had been approached by
32 Eva Patton, one of our -- one of the other Council
33 coordinators at OSM and I know that she had some
34 interest in this issue.

35
36 Eva, are you on the call?

37
38 (No comment)

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: It doesn't sound like
41 it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Yes. Sorry, Zach. I'm on
46 the call. And yeah, I just had wanted to let the
47 Western Interior Council know that the YK Delta did
48 receive an update on the partnership project and had
49 made some recommendations at that meeting so I just
50

1 wanted to be available if the Western Interior Council
2 had any questions about that.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. No. It's in
5 the -- still in the planning phase, so I'm not going to
6 get real concerned. I want to see what the -- a more
7 final version looks like. But thanks so much for being
8 available.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
11 Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
14 keep moving along in this agenda. We've got Fred Bue
15 all set up here and he passed out this document with
16 the king salmon on the cover.

17
18 Go ahead, Fred.

19
20 MR. BUE: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman. Fred Bue, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
22 I'm the Federal In-Season Manager for the Yukon River
23 Drainage.

24
25 I'll try to keep this as short as I
26 can. I -- yes. Jack said I -- I did pass out
27 perspectives on that -- that's the U.S. Fish and
28 Wildlife Service perspectives. And the previous
29 speaker, Chris Stark, with Bering Sea Fishermen's
30 Association, introduced the Comprehensive Salmon Plan
31 work that's going on and it's in its developmental
32 state of updating this plan.

33
34 This was last finalized in 1998, which
35 was quite a while ago, and so I think it's appropriate
36 to review the plan.

37
38 A lot has changed in the fisheries on
39 the Yukon River.

40
41 And if nothing else, it serves as a
42 good reminder of what the resources out there, what the
43 views have been in the past.

44
45 So in your book there's -- on page 28
46 was also a two pager, and essentially that's a summary
47 of that bigger document that I just passed out. And
48 what this Comprehensive Plan -- it's not just about
49 enhancement, but it's also about restoration,

50

1 rehabilitation, and enhancement. And restoration being
2 restoring runs that maybe used to be there, but went
3 away for a while and bringing those runs back.

4
5 Rehabilitation is for something, maybe
6 a habitat-related issue or harvest or something is
7 keeping the population down, so how can we bring that
8 segment of the population back at a more normal level.

9
10
11 And then enhancement is looking at
12 normal population levels and increasing it above
13 natural state so that you can benefit a user group for
14 sure.

15
16 And so essentially Fish and Wildlife
17 Service, we're charged with -- well, both Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, but I'm also kind of a -- I have two
19 different hats; I'm Fish and Wildlife Service, that's
20 my agency I'm employed with but my delegated authority
21 is through the Federal Subsistence Board, which is
22 working through the Federal Subsistence process.

23
24 So there's many agencies under that,
25 BIA and Park Service and Forest Service and such. And
26 so I -- as a manager, I don't have a position on this
27 and I'm trying to bring the Federal Fish and Wildlife
28 Service perspective to this group.

29
30 Initially, as Mr. Stark introduced,
31 there was the beginning of this process to review.
32 There was a comment -- a request for comments on the
33 previous plan and so that's what the Fish and Wildlife
34 Service did was submit this and it was -- we're
35 certainly not necessarily experts on fish propagation
36 in Alaska, but we have been involved a lot of years in
37 the Lower 48, close to 150 years and, in fact, Fish and
38 Wildlife Service kind of got its first start in that
39 process trying to bring back runs that were decimated
40 or whatever through whatever happened at the time and
41 so we've learned a lot over that period of time. We've
42 tried a lot of things. Some things have worked and
43 other things haven't. And so what we tried to do it
44 put this into a paper to help the Council because it --
45 you'll all make your own decisions both maybe as a
46 Council, but as community members, tribal members,
47 individuals you have different perspectives. And so as
48 you're going through that, we're just hoping this helps
49 you a little bit.

50

1 We give sort of an introduction and a
2 strategy, but we also talk a little bit about the
3 history and then some of the pitfalls that we've seen.
4 Lessons we've learned. And what we did was try to
5 document and cite -- make as many citations as we could
6 find so that if you're interested in particular
7 elements in here that we bring up -- it's certainly not
8 exhausted, but there is a lot, and it may help you
9 track down some of those questions you have.

10
11 As far as the Fish and Wildlife Service
12 perspective, propagation -- this is still early
13 development, so we don't know what the actual
14 comprehensive plan will be. We do plan on having a
15 formal review process and then we'll give positions and
16 a formal review. This is just an up front part so that
17 we don't surprise everybody at the end of the process.

18
19
20 But where we do have a perspective is
21 in line with the -- Ms. Clark was on the Yukon River
22 panel when they made the treaty, and part of the treaty
23 included elements about enhancement of wild stocks.
24 That was one of the elements.

25
26 And so I think the perspective is in
27 line with keeping with that treaty agreement. It's
28 consistent with the 1998 previous comprehensive plan --
29 the Phase I that's now called. And then it's also
30 consistent with the Alaska Chapter American Fisheries
31 Society regarding our fish propagation on Yukon River
32 salmon.

33
34 And I call your attention to page 18.
35 That will be the last page in this, and I think what I
36 did for the other RACs is just read it into the record
37 and then quit my discussion at that point.

38
39 So with Mr. Chair's approval, I'll go
40 ahead and do that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

43
44 MR. BUE: And so this is a resolution
45 statement of the Alaska Chapter American Fisheries
46 Society regarding artificial propagation of salmon in
47 the Yukon River in 1998 in the Yukon River wild salmon
48 management zone.

49
50

1 Whereas the Yukon River is one of the
2 largest producers of wild chum salmon
3 and chinook salmon in North America;
4 and

5
6 Whereas supplemental hatchery
7 production is being considered as a
8 means to increase harvest levels of
9 Yukon River salmon; and

10
11 Whereas increased harvest levels have a
12 potential to severely impact the many
13 small wild stocks included in the mixed
14 stock and mixes species fisheries; and

15
16 Whereas available scientific literature
17 suggests that hatchery produced salmon
18 can stray and interbreed with wild
19 stocks, altering the wild gene pool,
20 reducing stock fitness, and threatening
21 survival of wild populations.

22
23 Be it further resolved the American
24 Fisheries Society, Alaska Chapter,
25 urges the governments of Canada, United
26 States, and Alaska to manage the Yukon
27 River as a wild stock management zone
28 and to implement the following
29 resolutions.

30
31 1. Rebuilding of depressed wild salmon
32 stocks should be accomplished with
33 proper management of the resources and
34 not accomplished through increased
35 hatchery production;

36
37 2. In no instance should hatcheries be
38 used as a means to increase harvest
39 levels; and

40
41 3. As a last resort, aquaculture
42 techniques may be necessary if a
43 specific stock would become extinct
44 without direct intervention.

45
46 So again that's the Alaska Chapter
47 American Fisheries Society. The Fish and Wildlife
48 Service endorses that as their initial perspective.
49
50

1 I also want to make sure that you
2 understand that the State of Alaska is our experts on
3 enhancement in Alaska. They do a big part of the work
4 and they have also tried to learn from the Fish and
5 Wildlife Service mistakes that we've done other places.
6 But it's not a normal part of my work and so I'm not
7 familiar with the stipulations, regulations, policies
8 that they're under. And we are learning as we go
9 through this process. But initially this is a starting
10 point for us.

11
12 Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred.

15
16 So I encourage the Regional Council to
17 read this document because we're going to get -- in two
18 weeks we're going to get an email about what is going
19 to be presented at the -- for this April meeting. And
20 so I fully support this resolution. I mean this is
21 black and white as to the maximum level of propagation
22 on the Yukon. If a population is extinct, maybe we'll
23 use. But I agree with this resolution.

24
25 But I do want the Council to read this
26 document about what the pitfalls are with hatchery
27 fish. And so -- but the State is moving into their
28 Comprehensive Salmon Management Plan for Phase II, I
29 would suppose, and so we need to be fully aware of
30 what's going on with that.

31
32 And so I appreciate your presentation,
33 Fred. And I appreciate you reading that resolution
34 into the record. That is vary pertinent.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 And so we've got YRDFA wants to come up
39 for a presentation now. I'm going to clean up this
40 fisheries stuff.

41
42 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Wayne.

45
46 MR. JENKINS: Council, Yukon River
47 Drainage Fisheries Association would like to take this
48 opportunity to share a bit of information about our
49 present programs and what's coming up in 2017. And

50

1 I've tried to shave a good bit off of what I would
2 usually share with you.

3
4 So the first program that I would like
5 to describe and share with you is building and
6 maintaining public support of the salmon resource
7 management. It's funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife
8 Service through the Yukon River Panels Resource
9 Management Fund. And you may recall we shared a report
10 covering this grant support at last year's meeting.

11
12 Looking ahead, YRDFA Board and Staff --
13 excuse me here. I've toggled down and I apologize.
14 Looking ahead, YRDFA Board and Staff have begun
15 planning for our next board meeting in community
16 support and communications around Yukon River fisheries
17 issues in preparation for this year's fishing season.

18
19 The YRDFA board meeting will be held in
20 Fairbanks this year during the week of April 17th.
21 This will be the third year holding the meeting in an
22 urban hub of either Anchorage or Fairbanks. And this
23 is a reflection of tightening budgetary constraints and
24 the need to twin this meeting up with the full day
25 preseason planning meeting. This new approach does
26 seem to be working though we do all regret our lack of
27 ability to meet in the villages along the river.

28
29 Staff and Board are initiating creation
30 of our agenda and will over the next several months
31 secure our meeting location, book our flights, et
32 cetera. As usual, ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
33 will review last year's fishing season with our board
34 and seek preliminary feedback from our fishers on the
35 upcoming season outlook and strategies.

36
37 Other topics for the board discussion
38 may include the present redo of the 1998 Yukon River
39 Comprehensive Salmon Plan. This is necessary for State
40 permitting of fishery projects, such as hatcheries, in
41 stream incubation, other projects which are designed to
42 enhance specific fishery stocks.

43
44 The Ambler Road Corridor issue, the
45 Bering Sea bycatch updates, and Yukon River
46 TransBoundary issue, and others will be discussed upon
47 board approval.

48
49 We're looking forward to meeting
50

1 together with fisheries managers for preparing for the
2 upcoming fishing season and addressing other issues
3 important to Alaska Yukon River fishers and
4 communities.

5
6 The next project I'd like to quickly
7 share with you is the preseason salmon fishery prep
8 meeting. This is funded by the Yukon River Panel
9 through the restoration and enhancement fund. As
10 mentioned above, YRDFA staff are in the early stages of
11 planning the Yukon River fishery preseason planning
12 meeting to be held in Fairbanks following the board
13 meeting.

14
15 This annual meeting is the primary
16 opportunity for Yukon River fishers, community members,
17 and fishery managers to come together for reviewing
18 last year's fishing season, to review the upcoming
19 season, and to discuss in detail and build consensus on
20 management approaches that will achieve meeting
21 escapement, subsistence, and commercial harvests, and
22 conservation goals.

23
24 This approach has shown its value over
25 many years and across the complex and vast geography of
26 the Yukon Drainage. And especially in times of low
27 chinook salmon abundance as the level of cooperation
28 and understanding built is so necessary for meeting the
29 critical escapement goals in Canada and within Alaska
30 itself.

31
32 This has been accomplished over the
33 last three years. We have met the escapement goals.
34 And we support our Yukon River fishers and fishery
35 managers as they continue to work together for meeting
36 the goals and providing for subsistence needs and
37 commercial harvest.

38
39 Next is the in-season Yukon River
40 teleconference, funded by the Office of Subsistence
41 Management Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
42 YRDFA in-season Yukon River teleconferences will begin
43 as usual the first Tuesday of June and continue weekly
44 until the end of August. We are preparing communities
45 for participation in these important calls. Calls that
46 bring together Yukon River fishers and fishery managers
47 to discuss timely fishery associated topics while the
48 Yukon River salmon runs are taking place.

49
50

1 Communities and Tribal Councils receive
2 posters and letters inviting participation in the
3 teleconferences, as well as using public service
4 announcements via radio. On the calls fishery managers
5 can hear specific and detailed information on river
6 conditions, how various gear types and openings are
7 working, and reports on fisher harvest success. While
8 the fishers are updated on how the runs are moving up
9 river, fish counts, and can gain clarity on any
10 questions that they may have in real time during the
11 run.

12
13 These weekly calls support and help
14 sustain the collaborative efforts between fishers and
15 fishery managers for successfully meeting the
16 escapement and harvest goals necessary for maintaining
17 a sustainable fishery and addressing the challenge of
18 restoring chinook salmon stocks.

19
20 So I would like to check to see if
21 YRDFA's communication and outreach person Danielle
22 Stickman is on the line. She's now going to share a
23 couple of projects that she's working on.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there,
26 Danielle?

27
28 MS. STICKMAN: Yes. I am.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

31
32 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
33 and Members of the Council. My name is Danielle
34 Stickman. I was hired in September and since my hire
35 I've put a lot of time and effort in learning politics,
36 biological studies, regulations and policies on the
37 salmon populations on the Yukon River.

38
39 A meeting was held in December with
40 Yukon River fisheries manager from both ADF&G and U.S.
41 Fish and Wildlife Service and my colleagues to
42 coordinate and brainstorm ideas for a young fisherman
43 workshop. That will be held the week of April 17th in
44 conjunction with the annual YRDFA preseason and board
45 meeting in Fairbanks.

46
47 This workshop will go over salmon
48 biology, regulatory processes, health of the runs, and
49 other topics the participants would like to discuss.

50

1 There is funding for four to five participants to
2 attend, so to be considered please contact me to fill
3 out a survey. My email address is our website. And
4 these surveys will help develop the agenda and topics
5 of discussion for the workshop.
6

7 The educational pamphlets are currently
8 being developed for communities and different ways of
9 outreach and communication are also being explored. As
10 you know, I'm also partially funded by Pew Charitable
11 Trusts and my work with them has involved reaching out
12 to Tribal Councils within the Alaska Boreal Forest, as
13 well as connecting with tribal organizations,
14 consortiums, Federal and State agencies to compile
15 information around public land designations and
16 awareness of community conservation plans.
17

18 I finished the strategic plan for the
19 Alaska Boreal Conservation Campaign and have started on
20 the task timeline. But the next steps of moving
21 forward are still being developed as my contract ends
22 for that position on March 31st.
23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Danielle.
27

28 Any questions for her presentation.
29

30 (No comments)
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't see anything.
33 Thank you so much.
34

35 Wayne.
36

37 MR. JENKINS: I still have -- hopefully
38 have Catherine Moncrieff on the line. She can
39 share.....
40

41 MS. MONCRIEFF: I am on the line. Can
42 you hear me.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can hear you
45 fine. Go ahead, Catherine.
46

47 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Great. Thank
48 you. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council Members for the
49
50

1 opportunity to report on some of our projects.

2

3 The YRDFA in-season salmon harvest
4 survey program qualitatively informs managers how
5 fishers in key locations throughout the Drainage are
6 doing in-season, enabling managers to make timely
7 decisions allowing the maximum number of fishermen to
8 meet their subsistence needs.

9

10 The in-season survey program provides
11 consistent reporting to fisheries managers and the
12 public about subsistence harvests, run strengths, and
13 fishing conditions and fishermen's concerns.

14

15 Since our last report we have completed
16 the evaluation of the 2016 season and met with the
17 managers to discuss preparation for the 2017 season.
18 Through the feedback collective from the surveyors and
19 the managers, we learned that most feel the survey is
20 an effective means to gather information and give
21 communities an opportunity to share what is going on in
22 their area, including how they fish, their concerns,
23 and other important issues about the fishery.

24

25 Many feel the survey program reports
26 enhance the teleconferences. Challenges are that some
27 fishermen need more information about the goals of the
28 program and how the information improves management.

29

30 We are in the early stages of planning
31 for the 2017 season. Soon we will be rehiring our
32 surveyors and planning their travel to the preseason
33 meeting and surveyor training event the week of April
34 17th in Fairbanks. We plan to build the capacity of
35 the surveyors and foster their experiences as fishing
36 leaders through their attendance at these meetings and
37 the training event to provide them with the resources
38 they need to help us meet the challenges of the
39 program.

40

41 The next program I'd like to give you a
42 quick update on is the customary trade in the Upper
43 Yukon. This project addresses the need for additional
44 information on customary trade of fish throughout the
45 Yukon River, focusing specifically on the historic and
46 contemporary customary trade of salmon in the Upper
47 Yukon and Tanana Rivers.

48

49 Since our last report on this project

50

1 we have completed the field work in our additional
2 community of Venetie. The ethnographic and survey for
3 Fort Yukon, Manley Hot Springs, and Stevens Village is
4 ready for analysis. And we're just waiting for the
5 survey data from Venetie to be inputted and cleaned and
6 then we will begin the rest of the analyses.

7
8 Once we have completed these drafts we
9 will revisit each community to share the preliminary
10 findings and collect their feedback. And we will
11 continue to provide updates to your Council through the
12 end of the project, which is December 2017.

13
14 Another project I want to give you an
15 update on is the value of salmon project, which is
16 funded by the North Pacific Research Board. Through
17 this project, Yukon River fishing families have the
18 opportunity to share how they value salmon, why they
19 value salmon, and the ways in which it is most
20 important to them. Increasing understanding of how,
21 why, and in what ways salmon are valued by the people
22 of the Yukon River and the role it plays in their lives
23 will enable the North Pacific Research Board and
24 fishery managers to increase their understanding of the
25 values that can shape the future of salmon fisheries
26 management.

27
28 Case studies are being developed
29 through ethnographic interviews in Russian Mission,
30 Nenana, and Fort Yukon. I'm working on traveling to
31 Russian Mission, I actually just attempted yesterday and
32 couldn't make it in on weather, to present a draft
33 summary of their chapter at a workshop. I did this
34 also in Fort Yukon and Nenana and community members
35 have the opportunity through these workshops to provide
36 feedback and their comments are incorporated and edited
37 into the final draft.

38
39 This project will end in December of
40 2017. And during this time I'll be finishing the
41 community reviews and getting ready -- getting the
42 final report ready and hopefully publishing a summary
43 of it.

44
45 Two more quick projects I want to give
46 you an update on is a paper that we told you about at
47 your last meeting about traditional knowledge and
48 Federal fisheries management. And for this project,
49 YRDFA partnered with Kawerak, the Nome area non-profit,
50

1 on an article funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts that
2 examines the ways that traditional knowledge can be
3 used in Federal fisheries management, particularly the
4 North Pacific Management Council.

5
6 And just as an update, this paper has
7 been completed and accepted and published in Marine
8 Policy, which is an online journal and you can access
9 it through YRDFA's Facebook page or our website.

10
11 And lastly I just want to talk quickly
12 about a project funded by the National Science
13 Foundation called Yukon River Salmon Decline, Running
14 from Tradition. And this is a workshop we held at the
15 beginning of February with elders from the Lower Yukon
16 River. Six elders traveled to Anchorage to speak in
17 Yup'ik about king salmon for two days. This project
18 was a partnership with Calista Education and Culture.
19 And the focus of the workshop was elder knowledge of
20 salmon and salmon fishing. They also discussed the
21 history and changes in traditional place names, harvest
22 patterns, diet, food preparation, the traditional
23 fishing practices, weather, river conditions and other
24 animal and plant communities, and other relevant
25 topics.

26
27 Part of the project will be to
28 transcribe all of the recordings from the knowledge
29 workshop. And the results when we're finished will be
30 shared widely with communities, managers, scientists,
31 and other interested parties.

32
33 And that concludes the updates on our
34 projects. Unless Wayne wants to take it back or if I
35 have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

36
37 Thank you for your time.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on
40 Catherine's presentation.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, go
45 ahead.

46
47 MR. JENKINS: YRDFA would like to thank
48 the WIRAC for your support over the years and all the
49 work that you do for the communities on the Yukon
50

1 River.

2

3

Thanks, Jack.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thank you for
all the projects you're doing. And many of those are
so very important for the fishers and the resource.

7

8

9

Fred.

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21

MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Maybe I've got a
couple of comments. First of all, the State of Alaska
passed this resolution about wild stock management
zone. I'm looking -- I've got a granddaughter now
that's six months old. When -- in 37 years, probably
she's about the only one that's going to -- or just
about the only one that's going to know what wild stock
is. After that our hands are tied. Our hands are
going to be tied anyway for our future generations with
what they put on there.

22

23

24

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28

29

In no instance shall hatcheries be
maintained -- be used or means to increase harvest
levels. We're tying up our future generation, the
young people coming up. What would it take -- sure we
can amend this resolution -- whatever -- you know, but
it's going to be -- they're going to have a fighting
arm.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

Probably me and Shirley, you know, we
know what the wild stock means, and we're getting up
there in age. I'm 73 years old. Hey, you know, I want
that wild stock. What about the younger generation
like after my granddaughter. As long as there's fish,
they say hey, it's fish. It's fish. Whether it's wild
stock or artificial -- or whatever fish.

38

39

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You know, I'm just -- I'm thinking of
down the road -- ahead. Because I mean we're old.
What -- we're the only -- probably the last ones that
really understand what wild stock is. My younger kids
-- my kids -- they know. Like I said, my
granddaughter's six months old. She knows what the
strips is right now because she eats it. You know, and
my grandchildren -- my two -- I've got to hide my
salmon strips when I bring it in because they get into
it and it's gone.

(Laughter)

1 MR. ALEXIE: But, you know, after that,
2 you know, what are we doing here. What are we saying.
3 What are -- you know, what are we doing. We're tying -
4 - we're tying -- tying them and we're not helping.
5 That's the thing about it, this hatchery thing. We're
6 not helping the wild -- we're not helping the fishing.
7 These younger, hey, whatever. You know, it just -- I
8 just don't like -- I just don't like this resolution.

9
10 I mean you might say yeah, it's a good
11 resolution for now, but what is it going to do 37 -- 30
12 years down the road. Tying up my children. They want
13 to harvest fish and there's no fish. Or they can't
14 help the industry -- the fishing industry. What are we
15 doing. That's just my point.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I fully agree with
20 you, Fred, that, you know, I am not in favor of
21 hatcheries and enhancements unless -- but basically
22 this says, you know, the last resort is if a stock is
23 completely wiped out, they would use hatchery fish to
24 rebuild that stock. And that's -- but the confer.....

25
26 MR. ALEXIE: Jack, where is that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's the last number
29 three. The last page. On page 18. The last resort is
30 aquaculture. That's if a stock is wiped out. And so
31 that's why I said I agreed with it. That's a last
32 resort.

33
34 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we don't ever
37 want to wipe the stocks out. And so I am going to
38 fight to the last tooth and nail to maintain proper
39 harvest management, which is mandated under State and
40 Federal Statute, that we never get to that point.
41 That's what we're -- that's the objective.

42
43 But this comprehensive management plan
44 will be before us later on. Towards the fall we'll be
45 talking about it more. This is not just going to go
46 sliding on through. But we are going to -- and we'll
47 be apprised of it through -- by either hard copy if you
48 don't have email, but by email. All of this stuff is
49 going to go Zach. All of this stuff should be coming

50

1 back to us.

2 And we should read this so that we know
3 of what the pitfalls are. That's why Fred brought
4 this. This has a lot of what the U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife learned about pitfalls.

6
7 But we do have a lot of agenda to go
8 through. And I really appreciate what YRDFA's been
9 doing.

10
11 A final comment, Wayne.

12
13 MR. JENKINS: Well, I would just
14 encourage the RAC members and Yukon community members
15 up and down the river, you know, talk to your nearest
16 Yukon Board Member. This is a public process. It's
17 going to be going on for another good bit of time, so
18 everyone on the Yukon has the ability to weigh in with
19 their concerns about this issue.

20
21 So do that. It's a public document and
22 we want the best and most widest, broadest information
23 and feedback from the communities.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I'm sure
26 you'll hear more from us.

27
28 MR. ALEXIE: Another just quick
29 reminder for me. I wrote it down. That's April 12th -
30 - 17th be the YRDFA meeting, right?

31
32 MR. JENKINS: The YRDFA meeting is on
33 the week of the 17th.

34
35 MR. ALEXIE: Oh. The 17th. Okay.
36 Yeah.

37
38 MR. JENKINS: And I think it's Tuesday.

39
40
41 MR. ALEXIE: And the 12th is not.....

42
43 MR. JENKINS: Is the board meeting --
44 is.....

45
46 MR. ALEXIE: The 12th it actually
47 begins though. Or am I writing.....

48
49 MR. JENKINS: No. I think.....

50

1 MR. ALEXIE: Am I writing dates wrong?

2

3 MR. JENKINS: I don't know. It doesn't
4 begin on the 12th. The board meeting is the 18th. The
5 preseason's the 19th. This meeting for the
6 Comprehensive Salmon Plan is the 21st -- or the 20th
7 rather. I'm sorry. The 20th. And they're all three
8 going to be together. So, you know, you won't --
9 people won't have to travel all over Fairbanks. It'll
10 be boom, boom, boom. Either at Pikes or here.

11

12 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Yeah. All the
13 villages along the Yukon know about this meeting, or
14 your literature is out there now?

15

16 MR. JENKINS: No. It's not out yet.

17

18 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Well, I'd like.....

19

20 MR. JENKINS: We're rolling it out now.

21

22

23 MR. ALEXIE: I'd like to see this as
24 soon as I can get a hold of it.

25

26 MR. JENKINS: You bet. You bet, Fred.

27

28 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That will be
31 coming out here pretty soon, I'm sure. There should be
32 -- and that's the way -- you know, that's the way these
33 meetings should work. They should be boom, boom, boom.
34 Back to back so that, you know, you don't have all this
35 travel time. Every time you travel you've got all this
36 travel time, and I burn wood, you know, for everybody,
37 it cost a lot of time and effort and you've got to get
38 people to watch your sled dogs and a whole bunch of
39 stuff happens. These meetings have to be pretty
40 concise.

41

42 So we've got to move on in this agenda.

43

44 Thank you so much Wayne and YR DFA

45

46 Staff.

47

48 So we've moving to Refuge updates. I
49 can either take Kanuti or Koyukuk Nowitna. Who is
50 under the time constraints.

1 MR. SPINDLER: We'll make it quick.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. So we'll
4 bring up Kanuti.

5
6 MR. THOMAS: We're being invaded guys.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. SPINDLER: Well, we just have some
11 new people I want to introduce. So.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go right
14 ahead, Mike.

15
16 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chair and fellow
17 Board Members. For the record I'm Mike Spindler. I'm
18 the Refuge Manager of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.
19 And for the newer Council Members, I've been working
20 with this Council since it started, and raised my
21 family in Galena, fishing and doing everything like
22 you've talked about. I now live in Fairbanks and I'm
23 the manager of Kanuti, and it has some challenges.
24 It's a small Refuge. As you heard from PJ Simon this
25 morning, I have a close working relationship with the
26 Allakaket Tribe and we're all working together to keep
27 these resources going for subsistence purposes and
28 other purposes.

29
30 You have a very short handout with a
31 beaver on the front, and I won't go into any detail on
32 that, if you're interested in what's going on in Kanuti
33 in a general way, it's just a one-page summary of
34 what's happening on the Refuge.

35
36 But I'd like to call your attention
37 first off that we have a new Refuge officer airplane
38 pilot, Brandon Bosch, to my right. He is stationed at
39 Coldfoot and he'll be working half with the National
40 Park Service in a shared position. I look at it is a
41 Department of Interior position. And so he's utilizing
42 Park Service plane and housing and we're providing his
43 training and salary and so half his time will be spent
44 helping patrol on the Refuges near the Dalton Highway,
45 which includes Arctic, Yukon Flats, and Kanuti. The
46 other half of his time Gates of the Arctic National
47 Park.

48
49 So we welcome Brandon. Encourage you

50

1 to just chat with him during the break. He's new to
2 Alaska, but not new to law enforcement. So he has some
3 things to learn, but he also has ears wide open.

4
5 And you have met Tina Moran before.
6 She's a Deputy Manager at Kanuti. I just wanted to
7 refresh your memory, especially for the new Council
8 Members. Tina has a long history in working with
9 subsistence, having worked in Bethel for 13 years and
10 Kotzebue for 13 years. So she's worked with several
11 RACs before and lots of very difficult subsistence
12 issues. So if I'm traveling and not available, she's
13 the stand in for me. And feel free to call her or
14 dialogue with her over any of these issues. She's just
15 as fluent as I am.

16
17 The one thing that's probably --
18 possibly that I need to give you head heads up on for
19 Kanuti is that we had a guide permit on Kanuti Refuge.
20 A gentleman from Wiseman, a local person, had a permit
21 to guide for wolves and bears and that permit expired
22 and we re-recruited for another permittee to take that
23 place, but it went un-applied for. So we had a hiatus
24 of about five years with no guide permit on Kanuti, and
25 we're going through a process now to reallocate guides
26 on the Refuges that have open areas and Kanuti is one
27 of them. So that closed a few weeks ago. Had some
28 calls from people interested. I want to assure the
29 Council here that I'll be working very closely on the
30 ranking of the applicants and the Manager does make the
31 final selection. One of the criteria we look at is if
32 the person has got local roots. And so as Mr. Alexie
33 stated earlier, it's really important to have local
34 guides, if at all possible. And so that factors
35 heavily in our decision making and our process.

36
37 And the other thing I'd mentioned just
38 a couple of times is we've been putting a lot of effort
39 in this BLM planning process because Kanuti is
40 virtually surrounded by BLM lands. They are near the
41 Dalton Highway and all the things you've talked about,
42 so just be assured that we are looking at it from a
43 very close perspective, watershed by watershed and the
44 values that need to be continued to provide for
45 subsistence and working with BLM. I sit on the
46 planning team and so the concerns that you've stated,
47 they will continue to be heard at the planning table.

48
49 I just wanted to keep it brief and make
50

1 sure you had a chance to meet the new person and just
2 reacquaint yourself with Tina and for the new Council
3 Members, I look forward to working with you.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Shirley.

8
9 MS. CLARK: Here's a quick question.
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair. What does Kanuti mean or where
11 did it come from.

12
13 MR. SPINDLER: Ms. Clark, through the
14 Chair. The Native way of saying it -- forgive me if I
15 butcher it -- is (In Native), and it meant either old
16 man river or fish roe place. And I think it refers in
17 the case of the fish roe place to the spawning
18 whitefish, and it's a fairly important river for
19 whitefish, not so for salmon. But there's a whitefish
20 spawning area, there's over wintering habitat in the
21 river and there's summer rearing habitat for whitefish.
22 And as PJ mentioned earlier, whitefish are very
23 important to the Upper Koyukuk people.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.

26
27
28 PJ -- or Pollock, Senior.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MR. SPINDLER: Old PJ, new PJ.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. GERVAIS: PS.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. SIMON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just
41 wanted to make quick comment about taking bears and
42 wolves out of the Refuge. The grizzlies are increasing
43 in numbers and they tend to eat moose and black bears
44 and we don't hunt grizzlies anymore. We used to --
45 long ago people used to eat grizzlies, but not these
46 young -- young peoples barely eat black bear, us old
47 people like black bear.

48
49 It would help, Mike, if you could renew

50

1 that guiding service and those guys could take some
2 bears out and wolves out because this is how the
3 predator control is done on wolves and we're starting
4 to see more moose tracks around the area, so I would be
5 glad to see if there's a grizzly bear guide or
6 something.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

11

12 Yeah. When you make the selection I
13 would like to know where the guide area is and who that
14 person is eventually.

15

16 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, Mr. Chair. And
17 thank you for the comments, Mr. Simon. Through the
18 Chair.

19

20 That is one thing if you do have a
21 local rooted guide that you can work with the guide on
22 trying to tailor the operation so that it has minimal
23 impacts on subsistence, but maybe even some benefits to
24 subsistence with the harvest of some of those animals.
25 I know that that was the former gentleman's position
26 who had that guiding permit was to actually help
27 subsistence by taking bears and wolves.

28

29 But it was a not economically viable
30 operation. He ran into quite a few challenges. So
31 maybe in this case they will be guiding for moose, but
32 maybe because I think I've heard something like four
33 clients is what they're interested in. If they
34 separate themselves way out in the areas that don't
35 receive subsistence hunting and then they have a chance
36 to harvest some of those other animals like the big
37 animals and the wolves, then maybe will benefit
38 subsistence as well.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I think that
43 would be a very positive thing. The Kanuti has got
44 some huge grizzlies in there that that's all do hunt is
45 hunt. They kill adult moose. A lot of the collared
46 moose disappeared in the summertime. Yeah. Those are
47 the big grizzlies killing them. They'll kill big
48 bulls. They kill everything.

49

50

1 And Sidney Huntington sat there in
2 Galena in the last -- and I videoed him, and telling
3 this Council that grizzlies will control your life, is
4 what he said. They'll eat all the black bears. If
5 they build up to a certain point they'll eat all the
6 black bears, they'll start killing the moose, and
7 they'll control your life. Meaning they're going to
8 starve you out.
9 And Sidney is 100 years old. And when Sidney walked
10 into the room I stopped the meeting, come to the table
11 and talk to us, Sidney. And harvesting those grizzlies
12 in the Kanuti is a very important issue and I'm hoping
13 that you get a guide that takes some of those large
14 bears. They can have a huge effect. And it's
15 basically an unharvested bear population. So I'm
16 encouraged about that.

17
18 Any other questions from the Council.

19
20 MR. VENT: Yeah. Now you mention that
21 touchy subject on the bears, you know, we notice it in
22 our area. And what Sidney was saying was true.
23 Because there's -- we had Darrell Hildebrandt flying
24 over and he said he seen quite a few in the springtime
25 and they were really working hard to get what they need
26 to eat.

27
28 So we've got a lot of competition out
29 there and they're the main ones that, you know, those
30 ones, and I forgot to mention, you know, they talked
31 about some wolves down around Nulato area. They said
32 they never seen such a large pack for a long time. And
33 this guy hunts wolves down there quite a bit. He seen
34 one going up one side of the hill and a whole bunch --
35 seen a whole bunch of them going up into the hills.
36 Didn't get a chance to get a good shot at them though.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Final
39 comment, Fred.

40
41 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. I've just got a
42 comment. Matter of fact, I've got two.

43
44 First of all, bear. They take 60
45 percent. I don't know what the brown bear takes, but
46 the brown bears -- we don't -- no longer hunt them. We
47 hunt the black bears, but the brown bears take care of
48 the black bears, too. They take them out in the
49 springtime, in the falltime or in the wintertime when
50

1 they're thinned up. And the grizzlies run in Kiayuh
2 National Refuge. They know where every den is, every
3 black bear den is. They know. The brown bear does.
4 The grizzly. Take them right out -- out of the hole.
5 So it takes away -- that's the only time I like to eat
6 bear meat is when that bear comes out -- we get it out
7 of the den ourselves. I like to eat that because it
8 don't got the fish taste or -- it's just pure meat.

9

10 Okay.

11

12 The other thing is -- and the
13 philosophy of the let burn attitude. Firefighting.
14 The let burn attitude in any one of our Refuges. I do
15 not like that let burn attitude that the State Fish and
16 -- or firefighting -- firefighters come up with. It is
17 bad for our health, bad for our spawning, fish
18 spawning. And they say it's good for the moose. I
19 don't kind of lean that direction.

20

21 I just think about, you know, that the
22 let burn attitude's just burning in some good spawning
23 -- fish spawning areas. And I'd like at some point to
24 reconsider the State's stand on let burn attitude to
25 our BLM. Let burn attitude.

26

27 That's all I got.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Fred.

32

33 Any other comments for Kanuti.

34

35 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Alexie, through the
36 Chair, I did want to let you know that on Kanuti and
37 actually also on Koyukuk Refuge there is an area that's
38 called a lichen protection zone, which is a non-burning
39 area and it's established for the maintenance of old
40 growth lichen habitat that caribou rely on for the
41 wintertime.

42

43 And when we established that area near
44 Kanuti, one of the aspects that spoke to me the loudest
45 was that not only was it important to have old growth
46 spruce and lichen for caribou, but the people from
47 Allakaket after having suffered through two extreme
48 fire years of '04 and '05 said their sense of well
49 being on the landscape and on the trails and burned

50

1 over areas wasn't good. And so we combined those two
2 factors to establish about 100,000 acres right in the
3 middle of Kanuti that's a non-burn area.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Didn't know that.
6 Cool.

7
8 MR. SPINDLER: There's also one on
9 Koyukuk as well for caribou. If I'm not mistaken, it
10 still exists.

11
12 MR. MOOS: (Nods affirmatively)

13
14 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah. Kenton can fill
15 you in on that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18
19 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks
22 so much, Mike.

23
24 Brandon, welcome aboard.

25
26 MR. BOSCH: I'm excited to be here.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we'll see you
29 in Coldfoot.

30
31 So we're going to have Koyukuk,
32 Nowitna, Innoko Refuge Complex come to the mic. Go
33 ahead, Kenton.

34
35 MR. MOOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
36 Members of the Council. My name is Kenton Moos. I'm
37 the Refuge Manager for Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Innoko
38 Refuges and we are located out of Galena. But I am
39 going to let Jeremy give the presentation and if you've
40 got any questions I'll be here to help. But Jeremy
41 Havener is our subsistence coordinator and he will fill
42 you in.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. They're
45 setting up their PowerPoint, and opening it up, for
46 those people on the phone.

47
48 (Pause)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jeremy.

2

3 MR. HAVENER: All right. Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair and Council Members. For the record, my name
5 is Jeremy Havener. I'm the Refuge Subsistence
6 Coordinator at Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko National
7 Wildlife Refuge.

8

9 And today I'm here to present a Refuge
10 update. And I did hand out some pamphlets earlier this
11 morning and if you guys could follow along, we'll go
12 ahead and get into this. I do have quite a bit of
13 stuff in here and I know we are kind on a tight agenda.
14 There's a couple of main points I wanted to cover and
15 so if something comes up, please stop me and I'd be
16 happy to answer questions.

17

18 So first thing is Staff updates. This
19 is one thing we've been dealing with a lot this summer
20 and through now. As most of you probably know,
21 President Trump put in an executive order to have a
22 Federal hiring freeze and we're under that right now.

23

24 But we did get permission to hire four
25 positions in Galena. One was another maintenance
26 worker, in which we had -- he was our former admin
27 officer and he moved into that position. So that
28 opened up the admin officer position and we got
29 permission to hire that. And we just hired a lady from
30 Ruby. Her name is Marie Cleaver.

31

32 And also got permission to hire an RIT
33 in Galena and also a position in McGrath. And we did
34 change that position to a park ranger position. It's a
35 visitor services position, but I want to let you know
36 that the RIT duties will still remain in their position
37 description. So they will still be doing RIT duties,
38 as well as managing the office in McGrath.

39

40 And right now I'm trying to finish up
41 finalizing the hiring for an RIT in Huslia and things
42 aren't final there, but hopefully we'll move along on
43 that and get her in that position.

44

45 So we did lose two biologists. A
46 habitat biologist and a fisheries biologist. And
47 unfortunately, one of them is here right now, and we
48 lost our fisheries biologist to OSM. I'm going to
49 point him out. He's right over there, Frank Harris.

50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 MR. HAVENER: But, no, he'll be great
4 working for OSM and you guys will enjoy working with
5 him on fisheries issues.

6
7 We did lose a law enforcement position
8 and again, like I said, the RIT in McGrath.

9
10 Outreach education. We completed our
11 annual science camp in Galena.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You hired an RIT in
14 McGrath, is it hired?

15
16 MR. HAVENER: We lost an RIT in
17 McGrath.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I know you lost
20 Claire, but have you filled that here?

21
22 MR. HAVENER: That was the one where we
23 are going to be changing that position to a visitor
24 services park ranger.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But you have
27 not added. You're on a freeze for that position
28 or.....

29
30 MR. HAVENER: Oh. And I'm -- so yeah,
31 let me go back to that. Thank you. What ended up
32 happening.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm concerned about
35 that RIT position in McGrath because of the amount of
36 sporthunters and whatnot that go to the Innoko Refuge.
37 And I'm concerned that that's filled soon. Sooner than
38 later. Go ahead.

39
40 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. No. Thank you for
41 bringing that up. What we did is we opened that
42 position for hire, and because we were anticipating the
43 freeze, everything happened really fast and it was
44 rushed. We tried doing as much outreach as we could
45 for that and we only ended up getting a couple of
46 applicants. And with that I didn't feel comfortable
47 enough filling that position, so we didn't end up
48 selecting anybody and it is currently under the hiring
49 freeze.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2
3 MR. HAVENER: But we have intentions as
4 soon as that hiring freeze is lifted to fill that
5 position, and those RIT duties will still be
6 implemented there in that position.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

9
10 MR. HAVENER: And of course, as you
11 know, we do have an RIT that resides in Anvik, Ken
12 Chase, that also does RIT duties in the Innoko Refuge.

13
14 Okay. Onto slide two. Or excuse me.
15 Slide three.

16
17 MR. VENT: This is Darrel, Huslia. Did
18 you mention you had somebody in Huslia?

19
20 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. Currently, I can't
21 say anything official right now because it's still
22 pending but we are trying to hire an RIT in Huslia.

23
24 MR. VENT: Okay. Thanks.

25
26 MR. HAVENER: So outreach education.
27 We completed our annual science camp in Galena and the
28 theme this year was learning about Refuges and programs
29 associated with them, which included Refuges from the
30 Lower 48. So they looked into a bunch of different
31 things that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is doing
32 and that was a big part of their seven-day camp.

33
34 RIT Refuge Manager and Outreach
35 Specialist hosted a Voices of the Wilderness Writer
36 this year. And that's a competitive process where
37 artists turn in applications to convey how they're
38 going to implement wilderness into the public. And
39 it's a -- like I said, a competitive process and we
40 selected a writer from Juneau.

41
42 And then of course the Refuge Manager
43 Outreach Specialist and Ken Chase traveled down to the
44 villages of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross
45 and met with some students and he talked about writing
46 with them and they checked out the wilderness area
47 within the Innoko Refuge.

48
49 Staff assisted in coaching a local
50

1 biathlon shooting team. And with that we are
2 incorporating gun safety there. And that is one thing
3 I didn't mention on here is we do have a couple Staff
4 members that are official hunters and safety instructors
5 and including me being one of them. And if anybody's
6 interested in wanting to put on a program for that, I'd
7 be more than willing to get out to the villages and so
8 gun safety.

9
10 We've done them in Kaltag before and in
11 Galena. So if people are interested in that, we'd be
12 super happy to get out and put on a program.

13
14 Let's see.

15
16 So Refuge Staff and ADF&G Staff visited
17 Yukon River villages this summer to talk with fishermen
18 about the fall season. We went down to Nulato, Kaltag,
19 and Koyukuk and of course Galena and just asked how
20 fishermen were doing and, you know, any concerns they
21 had, and just it was good to get out and talk with
22 them.

23
24 Ken Chase attended the U.S. Fish and
25 Wildlife Service invasive species training. He's going
26 to be using this training to help bring awareness to
27 the Innoko Refuge area on impacts of invasive species
28 and how we can prevent them from spreading.

29
30 And then finally Ken Chase has also
31 been meeting with the local schools to start
32 introducing kids into wildlife management and how they
33 can get involved in the regulations process. That's
34 one thing he's really brought up to me quite a few
35 times on something that he's wanting to get going, just
36 getting out, talking with kids, and introducing them to
37 the RACs and AC's and how that whole process goes.

38
39 And on to slide four. The 2016
40 November Koyukuk moose trend area surveys. We
41 completed them in November this year. This year was
42 kind of a tough year. We didn't have much snow so we
43 were concerned about sightability but we ended up
44 getting some pretty good counts. I know I was talking
45 with Brad and our supervisor wildlife biologist and it
46 sounds like they had quite a bit of frost this year, so
47 that allowed them spot some moose a little bit better
48 than they would have if, you know, it was just relying
49 on the snow.

50

1 And so this map right here is showing
2 you the trend count areas that we survey. And one
3 thing we haven't updated on here is the Innoko Refuge.
4 We do have a trend area on the Innoko River, it's
5 probably about 350 miles up the Innoko.

6
7 And so I'll just go through a summary
8 here on the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge moose
9 population. Like I said, there was barely any snow,
10 just a dusting in late October and then we got two
11 inches of snow on the 14th and then another dusting on
12 the 22nd, and like I said, we had good frost.

13
14 The southern units, which include
15 Galena, Pilot Mountain, Koyukuk Mouth, and Kiayuh
16 continued to increase, good cow and bull numbers and
17 good recruitment. And we saw excellent calf
18 production, which is survival into the fall, and good
19 spring twinning rates.

20
21 The northern units, which include 3-Day
22 Slough, Dulbi River, Treat Island, and Huslia River,
23 indicate another year of good calf production and cow
24 and bull numbers are basically the same, which is 20
25 percent below the ten-year average. And poor -- again
26 with poor snow conditions, we're, you know, thinking
27 that sightability -- we might have missed -- or excuse
28 me. Sightability was only reduced by 30 percent. We
29 did see increases in observations at Dulbi and Three
30 Day and there was another year of good calf production.

31
32
33 Overall, the southern areas appear to
34 be growing while the northern area 2011 decline has
35 stabilized. And there's less adult moose, but high
36 calf production. And we need to be conservative with
37 our harvest strategies until recovery is clear.

38
39 And this is one thing I kind of wanted
40 to get into a little bit because we do make the
41 decision on a Federal moose hunt in the Huslia area,
42 which is Game Management Unit 24D on the Refuge. And
43 we have been talking with the stakeholders and I do
44 plan on getting up to Huslia or at least communicating
45 with the Tribal Council on any issues with that
46 decision and getting input. And with this decline that
47 we're seeing -- or at least the numbers still being
48 below 20 percent -- or excuse me, with the numbers
49 still being 20 percent below the average, we're going

50

1 to remain conservative and probably not hold that hunt.

2

3

4

MR. VENT: Excuse me, Chair.

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.

7

8

MR. VENT: Yeah. I've got a question
9 on that. Now you're talking about -- what hunt are you
10 talking about, is that the fall hunt or is that the
11 spring hunt? Because we aren't allowed to spring hunt
12 anymore.

13

14

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MR. HAVENER: Mr. Vent, through the
Chair. The hunt I'm referring to is the winter moose
hunt. There's two opportunities there. There's a
March 1 through 5 and an April 10 through 15 and so
we'll be making a decision on both of those timeframes.
And right now with the data we're seeing and people
we've been talking to, we're looking at not opening
that hunt again.

The last time we opened it -- I believe
it's been probably three years ago and we opened it
during that April timeframe and that was to ensure that
it was a bulls only harvest because that time you can
see some antlers starting to grow. And that was the
last time we've held it. The last couple of years
we've been conservative and not had the hunt.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kenton called me up
and I talked about that winter hunt with him. With the
lower number of moose and especially the low bull/cow
ratio especially around the May, you know, the bull/cow
ratio in general is not within the -- there's a
management plan of 30 bulls per 100 cows. There's some
higher bull/cow ratios in some areas, but then there's
below numbers down there by 3-Day Slough. And so you
want to remain conservative on these bulls. We're
getting some real good calf recruitments the last three
years and maybe next year. I'm thinking maybe next
year we might be able to have a spring participation
hunt.

Darrel.

MR. VENT: I just wanted to reiterate
on that. We have, you know, seen some of these numbers
that you've been talking about the years, and I keep

1 requesting the numbers because you guys always work in
2 numbers. I appreciate that. But, you know, we've got
3 to remember these numbers are not actual numbers.
4 These are projected numbers because you're just doing
5 an estimate. Is that correct?

6
7 MR. MOOS: Mr. Vent, through the Chair.
8 They are trends, yes, you are correct. But they do
9 give us good information.

10
11 And I think it's worthwhile to also
12 clarify is that we have not taken this hunt away. It's
13 a to be determined hunt. So it's still on the books.
14 We hope to open it up soon again absolutely, so it's
15 not that we've taken these hunts away. It's a to be
16 determined hunt. So I think that's important that it's
17 -- we haven't taken it away and we hope to open it up.

18
19 And potentially some others as well.

20
21 We're seeing some promising indications
22 right now and -- however, we still need to be
23 conservative especially with a couple of things like
24 Jack had said, the bull/cow ratios but then also the
25 adult cows. They're a very, very important component.
26 And with the numbers being suppressed right now
27 slightly, we want to be very conservative because they
28 drive our population basically. So we want to make
29 sure that it's a good, healthy adult cow population.

30
31 MR. VENT: Okay. I'm not trying to
32 speak specifically for the spring hunt. What I'm
33 worried about is in the falltime. You know that -- I
34 know that while we're getting cut back on this food
35 source, so we're having an amount of hunters coming in
36 in the falltime that's not operating at sustained
37 yield. We look at the numbers and you send a certain
38 amount of numbers of hunters in there, well, they make
39 you a lot of money off those permits, but see, this is
40 the thing that's bothering me. Is I've been telling
41 them we've got to watch that.

42
43 I talked with Glenn Stout about that
44 and he's -- you know, he was indicating that it might
45 be a problem because I'm telling him that, you know,
46 that you guys are saying good calf production rates,
47 but that's not the real picture. We may have good calf
48 production rates, but we have bigger bear harvest on
49 predation for calves. You're not including that in

50

1 this report. You're making it look nice and good on
2 the paper, but overall I see problems with it.

3
4 And if these problems keep persisting
5 we're going to have a crash in our moose there and
6 that's going to hurt our people in the village. So I
7 want you to note that just because you have good calf
8 production doesn't mean that it's going to --
9 everything is going to turn out good, because predation
10 is simply stepping up more.

11
12 And we don't have the good bull strain
13 anymore because they -- a lot of the big bulls have
14 been killed off. We have younger bulls breeding and
15 they can't survive. It's survival rate is different
16 when you have -- you've got a lot of calves, but hey,
17 you're losing a lot of them.

18
19 So I just want you to note that in your
20 notes that, you know, you may make it look good on
21 here, but does that mean that you're going to have more
22 increased hunting in the fall. Are you going to limit.
23 Are you going to lower. I need to know those
24 informations.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The draw permit
27 numbers have been reduced and are still this year going
28 to be issued at 50 permits or what are they issuing.

29
30 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Chair, I believe in
31 2013 what happened is we noticed that decline in the
32 overall adult population and what the State did is they
33 reduced their draw permits by half. I don't have the
34 exact number in my head. I want to say it's 40
35 resident tags and maybe five non-resident tags is the
36 current.

37
38 MR. MOOS: It's a little more than that
39 but.....

40
41 MR. HAVENER: But at any rate, due to
42 that decline that we saw, the State did reduce their
43 draw permits.

44
45 MR. VENT: Has anything.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

48
49 MR. VENT: Has anything been done with
50

1 the regular permits?

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You mean the
4 subsistence permit? Though that's the State issued,
5 where the antler destruction permit, that has an
6 unlimited number of participants. But that antler
7 destruction is what's held down the excessive amount of
8 hunting pressure. But Glenn Stout told us that there
9 was a lot of people that would have come up -- a lot of
10 the participation in the subsistence hunts is people
11 from Galena and people go up into the Koyukuk, but
12 because the Kiayuh was flooded up pretty good this year
13 people hunted pretty heavy and that bull -- or the
14 moose population is really growing down there in the
15 Kiayuh, so a lot of people went down there.

16
17 So these populations around the Yukon
18 are doing really good and they're moving away from
19 Koyukuk Refuge up in your country.

20
21 MR. VENT: Okay. I just want to make
22 sure I get the numbers on that. If -- you know, for
23 the subsistence and the permits.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But for the Huslia
26 hunt this next year with the good calf recruitments
27 that we've had and the young bulls that are -- the good
28 numbers of young bulls that are coming in, I think that
29 possibly next year we'll be able to have a spring hunt
30 for Huslia. But not this year. We need another good
31 year of recruitment. Plus there was a pretty good
32 harvest last fall. You know, Huslia did real good on
33 harvest.

34
35 So continue.

36
37 MR. HAVENER: So this next slide is the
38 Huslia Flats and Treat Island trend count areas. And
39 this is up near the Huslia area. And it's 306 miles
40 squared. And like I said, again it was a poor snow
41 year during the survey. We had two airplanes flying
42 and we flew 46.3 hours roughly compared to 38 last
43 year. And that's probably due to the low visibility or
44 the sightability.

45
46 And here are the numbers from those
47 trend areas. So you can see that cows and bulls are
48 down on -- excuse me, cows and bulls are both down just
49 a bit and probably again due to decreased sightability

50

1 and adult numbers are probably stable.

2
3 And cows are still about 20 percent
4 lower than the 2001 to 2011 average. Good bull to cow
5 ratio at 34 bulls to 100 cows. And good yearling bull
6 to cow ratio at 10 bulls per 100 cows. Really good
7 production this year with calf/cow ratios at 31 to 100.

8
9
10 And this is a graph with the moose
11 densities. The blue is the moose per square mile and
12 the red is cows per square mile. And moose per square
13 mile are just a little bit under three and the cows are
14 just below two, so about 1.75.

15
16 This is the 3-Day Slough and Dulbi
17 River mouth combined trend count areas. And we saw
18 better bull and cow numbers here. Bull/cow ratios were
19 26 to 100 and yearling bull/cow ratios were 13 to 100
20 and production was around 32 calves per 100 cows.

21
22 And we flew 40.9 hours surveying this
23 year, as opposed to 30.5 last year.

24
25 And this is a graph with the moose
26 density in this area. And it's for -- for total moose
27 it's above four and for cows is just a little bit below
28 three moose per square mile.

29
30 Our 20 surveys are on this next slide.
31 And we completed those from May 20th through the 30th
32 to coincide with calving. And the twinning rate is the
33 percent of cows with calves that have twins. And for
34 the three areas that we surveyed we were right around
35 35 percent, which anything above 20 percent is a good
36 indication that habitat is good and cows are healthy
37 and that there is potential for growth.

38
39 This next slide, slide 12, is a
40 geospatial population moose estimate for 2014. The
41 survey area is 1,800 square miles. There were 336
42 sample units. And units sampled were 128, with 84
43 hours of flight time, and 1,297 moose were counted
44 during this survey.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm going to have to
47 have you speed up a little bit.

48
49 MR. HAVENER: Okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because this is a
2 really long report.

3
4 MR. HAVENER: Yep. And this next graph
5 is just showing the GSPE data. And as you can see,
6 this is in the Huslia River subunit and it's showing a
7 population decline from 2001 to 2014.

8
9 And the same thing on this next slide.

10
11
12 And here is the Koyukuk River mouth,
13 Pilot Mountain, and Squirrel Creek trend count areas.
14 And here we're seeing continued high numbers of cows
15 and calves. Same number of bulls, especially
16 yearlings. Bull/cow ratios were a little bit below
17 management objective of 25 to 100. Good yearling bull
18 to cow ratio is 12 to 100 and excellent calf/cow ratios
19 of 41 to 100. And this area is a heavily hunted area,
20 but it's still biologically adequate.

21
22 And this is the Kiayuh Slough trend
23 count area and some information there. And what we're
24 seeing is bull/cow ratios of 54 to 100, which is pretty
25 high, excellent calf production of 52 to 100 and
26 yearling bull/cow ratios of 17 to 100 and it is a lower
27 density population, but we're hoping things are
28 increasing down there.

29
30 And the one thing we're seeing is big
31 differences between north and south units in
32 recruitment and production. And this picture kind of
33 shows that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

36
37 MR. VENT: Jack. This is something
38 that I was kind of looking for. You're showing more
39 calves per 100 cows in both areas. And around the
40 Huslia, Dulbi River area this count is based mostly
41 where? Where are you seeing a lot of production in
42 these areas because when we look at like amount
43 necessary for subsistence, you look at certain areas,
44 there's higher counts in certain areas depending on
45 this whole area.

46
47 I -- you know, I'm just concerned about
48 that Dulbi Slough area -- Dulbi River area, I think
49 it's reflected with the Treat Island area where there's
50

1 more moose compared to versus the Dulbi River area.
2 I'm just not too sure if they're giving me numbers that
3 -- you know, where we're getting hit at and it's all
4 still the same numbers of hunting. So I'm just
5 concerned about that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the amounts
8 necessary are set. That's a Board of Game and that's a
9 unit wide thing. It's not micro areas. Like these are
10 little micro surveys. These are trend areas. These
11 are tiny, small places. So this gives you little
12 snapshots throughout this whole Koyukuk, Innoko, Novi
13 area, and so you don't want to get too fixated. On
14 some of these things you want to look at the big,
15 overall numbers for what that Koyukuk controlled use
16 area is doing. And it's showing real healthy calf
17 recruitments. There's a lot of harvest there. And --
18 but there were some deep snow years and so that's what
19 we see is the large bulls that are alive now, they came
20 out of deep snow years.

21
22 And so this is all -- all these numbers
23 -- what it means to me is this population's doing real
24 well. It's got excellent calf production. Even better
25 on the Kiayuh -- the Koyukuk River mouth. But it's
26 doing really well.

27
28 And so that's the take home of this
29 whole presentation.

30
31 And so I don't want to get too bogged
32 down in the numbers here. I think you can take
33 these.....

34
35 MR. VENT: Okay.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can take this
38 home. Look these numbers over. And if you start to
39 look at the big picture, the moose are doing really,
40 really well right now. And we got another good winter.
41 We hardly have any snow down there around Galena.
42 Those moose can get away from wolves better. There
43 will be a real good recruitment again.

44
45 And so the way you read these numbers
46 are you look at the yearling bull to cow ratio. For
47 every one of those yearling bulls there's typically at
48 least a cow yearling, and so there's some huge --
49 there's like 25, 30 young moose moving into the
50

1 population. Recruited. That's what that actually
2 means.

3
4 MR. VENT: Well, what my concern was on
5 that just make a note on this was that remember when we
6 talked about the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and the
7 Northwest Arctic caribou, when you added those numbers
8 together, it wasn't actually accurate.

9
10 That's what I'm trying to tell them.
11 That this is not accurate.

12
13 Because up there in the Treat Island
14 there's a lot of moose in there, but down there in the
15 Dulbi Slough area it's getting just as hit as the same
16 hard every year because we've got moose numbers up
17 there in the Treat Island area.

18
19 So I just wanted you to note that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

22
23 MR. VENT: All right.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So.....

26
27 MR. HAVENER: Okay. I'll keep moving
28 along here.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let's move to the
31 beaver cache.

32
33 MR. HAVENER: Okay. And there is stuff
34 in here on the Novi moose population and the Innoko
35 moose population, too.

36
37 And then Galena Mountain caribou herd
38 and the sightings that we've seen and beaver cache
39 surveys.

40
41 And did you want me to touch on this a
42 little bit, or can I move into.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want you to skip
45 ahead a little.

46
47 MR. HAVENER: Okay. Might just move
48 into the Koyukuk River chum salmon project.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

2
3 MR. HAVENER: Okay. So the Koyukuk
4 River chum salmon radiotelemetry proportional
5 distribution study and abundance estimation with mark
6 recapture sampling. So this is a three-year project
7 and sampling occurred this year from June 16th through
8 July 30th. Each sample period was six days a week and
9 the study was -- or this was the last year of a three-
10 year study. We hired two technicians to assist with
11 the project and sampling occurred 27 miles from the
12 mouth of the Koyukuk.

13
14 Two boats completed the sampling with
15 crews of two people per boat, one person to drive the
16 boat and another person to work the net. Sampling was
17 completed with drift gillnets and as soon as the fish
18 hit the net it was pulled to limit catch. And only two
19 fish were kept from the net during each drift to limit
20 stress on them while being worked up in the tanks. And
21 after the drift is complete fish are measured, sex is
22 determined, and tags are placed.

23
24 And this is the results from the 2016
25 year.

26
27 And it shows the six strata or
28 basically each strata is a week that we're out
29 sampling. And the total catch was 3,157 fish, 2,294
30 were spaghetti tagged and 268 radio transmitters were
31 put out and 435 fish were released and not sampled.

32
33 This is results continued.

34
35 And this shows all the river drainages
36 throughout the Koyukuk and the distance from the area
37 we were tagging them. And the radio transmitters
38 column shows the number of transmitters that were in
39 each drainage as we tracked them. And the proportion
40 is the number of tags that were -- we located in each
41 drainage out of the total number of tags issued.

42
43 So for instance, under the Gisasa River
44 it was .136, which amounts to 13.6 percent of the tags
45 were in the Gisasa. 19.9 percent of the tags were in
46 the Huslia River, Bill Hawk Creek Drainage. 13.1
47 percent were in the Indian River. 11.3 percent were in
48 Henshaw Creek and 19.5 percent were in the Koyukuk
49 River. And that was located between 477 kilometers to
50

1 555 kilometers, which is roughly around Treat Island to
2 past Hughes.

3
4 This is the data for average length of
5 fish that were sampled. And you can see each strata on
6 the bottom there and the fish -- the squares are males
7 -- the length of males in millimeters and the other one
8 is females in millimeters. And then the graph to the
9 right is the ratio of males to females for 2016.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Strata, meaning
12 what?

13
14 MR. HAVENER: The strata is each week
15 that we were sampling.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18
19 MR. HAVENER: So one, two, three, four,
20 five, and six is.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

23
24 MR. HAVENER: That's six weeks total.

25
26 On to the next slide is slide 31. And
27 its average travel time to spawning location. And for
28 the Gisasa River it took about one day to get to one
29 day to get to the Gisasa River from our tagging
30 location. Eight days on average to get to Huslia
31 River, Billy Hawk Creek. Seven days to get to the Hog
32 River and twelve days to the Henshaw Creek.

33
34 And now on to the subsistence update.

35
36 This is the data for the Nowitna moose
37 hunter check station. And this data is a long term
38 data set that we have that goes from 1988 to 2016. And
39 this year we had 117 hunters check in and 39 moose were
40 harvested during the State season from September 5th
41 through the 25th.

42
43 And here's some data or information on
44 that. This check station has been in operation since
45 1988 and it was formerly split with Staff from ADF&G
46 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but currently Fish
47 and Wildlife Service Staff operate the Nowitna check
48 station and ADF&G operate the Koyukuk River check
49 station.

50

1 It's located about a quarter mile from
2 the confluence of the Nowitna, Yukon Rivers. Staff
3 offer outreach on regulations, biologic -- or excuse me
4 -- biology, boundaries, and other Refuge-related
5 information. And actually Lisa Maas got a chance to
6 come out there and work this last fall, so she got to
7 see a little bit of what the check station is about and
8 we appreciate her coming out there and working.

9
10 Staff issues registration and
11 subsistence permits and we collect harvest data and the
12 number of hunters within the Nowitna River, while
13 collecting T samples for aging and antler measurements.
14 And again there's the 2016 results. Whoops. I went
15 the wrong way.

16
17 Federal moose hunt 2101 and GMU 21B,
18 which is the Federal Hunt on the Nowitna that goes from
19 September 25th through October 1st. This year we had a
20 high number of permits issued out. Or at least the
21 highest number of permits that we've issued out since
22 the hunt began in 2007. There were 13 permits issued
23 and there were a total of two moose harvested. We are
24 still missing one permit or one harvest report.

25
26 And this year it was a little
27 different. As you know, the proposal went through the
28 Federal Subsistence Board to change the boundary for
29 hunters in the northern portion of the Nowitna Refuge
30 and so this year we had permits issued in Galena, Ruby,
31 Tanana, and at the check station.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You had more Tanana
34 participation to make that higher number?

35
36 MR. HAVENER: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39
40 MR. HAVENER: Yep. We did.

41
42 And I attached this just for
43 information. It is the conditions that we issue out
44 with that specific permit.

45
46 The 21E federal hunt. The fall season
47 runs from August 25th through September 30th. This
48 year was the first year that we had a State -- or
49 excuse me -- a combined State, Federal registration

1 permit. Prior to that it was -- there was a State
2 registration permit folks had to get and also a harvest
3 ticket. So there was some confusion there and Ken
4 Chase, myself, and Josh Pierce from ADF&G kind of came
5 up with this system. And, you know, I think it worked
6 pretty good this year and it was a little bit -- you
7 know, it eased things on the regulation side of things
8 for subsistence users.

9
10 And this year we had two bulls that
11 were harvested during the Federal season and one bull
12 was harvested in 2015, so there's pretty low harvest on
13 this permit.

14
15 And one thing I did want to bring
16 before the Council is that there was a proposal,
17 Proposal number 76 through the Board of Game to
18 lengthen the State registration season. Currently it's
19 from September 5th through the 25th. And with this
20 extension it'll go from September 1 through the 25th.
21 And I believe it did pass, I wasn't there for it. And
22 this is coming from -- I don't want to speak for the
23 GASH AC, but I've kind of listened in on a number of
24 their meetings and I associate with Ken quite a bit.

25
26 There's interest from the GASH AC to
27 lengthen this season in order to line it up with the
28 Federal season to eliminate some of this confusion.
29 And I believe there was some home from the GASH AC with
30 the Federal -- or the Western Interior Regional
31 Advisory Council to propose a wildlife proposal to kind
32 of align those seasons.

33
34 So I just kind of wanted to bring that
35 before you and have a discussion on that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What does the
38 Council think about, we're under wildlife proposal
39 call. If the Board of Game has lengthened the -- moved
40 the season up to the 1st of September, on the State
41 side should we make a Federal wildlife proposal to
42 align with the State regulation, which would be
43 September 1 through September 25.

44
45 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. Yeah. Currently
46 the State season will be September 1 through 25.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this is their
49 opportunity to make proposals. We can put it in the
50

1 hopper. Submit the proposal to align with the new
2 State regulation for 21E fall hunt.

3
4 What does the Council think about
5 submitting that. We've got Council -- go ahead, Tim.

6
7 MR. GERVAIS: I just want to -- this
8 proposal 76 is for what GMUs?

9
10 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Gervais, through the
11 Chair. This is for GMU 21E.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Shirley, Fred,
14 that's in your area. What do you think about aligning
15 those seasons.

16
17 MS. CLARK: I think it would cut down
18 on the confusion myself. And I've noticed that. You
19 know, I didn't know when to hunt because it was open in
20 August and I think it should be all the same. It
21 doesn't make that much difference, I don't think. And
22 I'm right there on the hunting grounds.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will
25 entertain a motion to submit a proposal, Federal
26 subsistence proposal to align with Board of Game action
27 and for the fall hunt for Unit 21E.

28
29 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.
32 We've got a second.

33
34 MS. CLARK: (Nods affirmatively)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Shirley.
37 Discussion on that.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can talk about
42 that at our fall meeting and review the proposal.

43
44 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on
47 that motion. Those in favor of the motion to submit
48 the proposal for 21E, signify by saying aye.

49
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

4
5 (No opposing votes)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for bringing
8 that up, Jeremy.

9
10 MR. HAVENER: And moving on through the
11 presentation.

12
13 This is the information for the winter
14 Federal moose hunts in game management Unit 21E. 2105
15 is the area within game management Unit 21E. That is
16 on Federal lands. And there were four bulls harvested
17 this year and four cows so for a total of eight moose.

18
19
20 And in FM2104, which is the southern
21 portion of game management Unit 21E on Federal lands,
22 it's basically beginning at a line south of Piamuit
23 Slough, there was one cow harvested and I believe that
24 was from Aniak. And again I attached the conditions
25 that go out with this permit just for your information.

26
27
28 And finally we participated in the
29 AMBCC migratory bird harvest survey this year. This is
30 the first one, at least the Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko --
31 that we've participated in since 2010, I believe.
32 There were some issues with the statistics and how they
33 kind of come up with some new stats and we are kind of
34 going through a trial run this year. And the villages
35 that we are to survey this year are Takotna, Nulato,
36 and Tanana. Currently we've finished surveying Takotna
37 and Nulato.

38
39 Just got back from Nulato prior to
40 coming here and I do want to say on the record that it
41 was a pleasure working with the Nulato Tribal Council.
42 We got there and everything was ready. They assisted
43 us in calling the subsistence users to set up those
44 household surveys, so I wanted to say thanks to the
45 Nulato Tribal Council.

46
47 We sampled ten households randomly and
48 are looking at harvests of migratory birds from the
49 spring, summer, and fall, which include grouse. And we
50

1 were also looking for egg harvest.

2

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And this survey was created due to the amendment to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1997 and the first legal subsistence season began in 2003. And the reason for the survey was to get a good idea on the harvest to show importance of subsistence uses on migratory birds, to protect subsistence harvest, assess whether harvest regulations are appropriate, and to plan for the conservation of birds.

And that concludes my presentation.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

MR. HAVENER: And I'll open it up for questions.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko.

Shirley.

MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

How do you keep track of the harvest on the migratory birds, or do you?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead.

MR. HAVENER: Ms. Clark, through the Chair. To keep track of the harvest on the migratory birds during the survey? Was that what your question was referring to?

MS. CLARK: Yeah. I was just interested in the numbers.

MR. HAVENER: Yeah. Right now we don't have any numbers compiled. Every year AMBCC will put together a harvest survey or a harvest report from these surveys. And if you would like, I'd be more than happy to try to relay that report to you when it comes out. Okay.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any final comments.

(No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a lot of
2 agenda here.

3
4 All right. Thank you so much. You've
5 got a big, huge complex and a big, thick report, so
6 lots of information and Council Members can look at
7 those numbers again. I'm real happy about the
8 performance of the moose population in the last three
9 years, so I'm encouraged by that.

10
11 So we have Aaron Poe. Is he on the
12 call or.....

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Aaron,
17 are you on the call?

18
19 MR. POE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I am.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just go right ahead
24 with what you want to speak to us about.

25
26 MR. POE: Okay. Will do. And thanks
27 to Zach Stevenson for inviting me there today. So
28 apologies that I don't have some great slides in front
29 of you guys. Hopefully my melodious voice will be
30 enough.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. POE: So my name is Aaron Poe. I'm
35 based in Anchorage, Alaska. I work with a group called
36 the Landscape Conservation Cooperative. And I think
37 you guys have heard a little bit about -- I know -- I
38 think it was, gosh, either last year or the year before
39 that we presented. I was part of a panel that
40 presented to you guys when you were down here in
41 Anchorage for sort of the meeting of all ten RACs
42 together.

43
44 But just as a little bit of reminder on
45 sort of this Landscape Conservation Cooperative's
46 concept. Basically, well, we're public/private
47 partnerships that are -- there's 22 of them across the
48 continent of North America. They extend into Canada
49 and into Mexico and encompass all of the United States.

50

1 There's five different ones in Alaska. And I think
2 your Region is most largely contained within the
3 Northwest Boreal LCC and probably also the Western
4 Alaska LCC.

5
6 And essentially what these partnerships
7 are trying to do is to tackle some of the big issues.
8 Some of the issues, things like climate change that
9 extend across people's boundaries and across people's
10 jurisdictions. The types of challenges that are, you
11 know, facing communities, as well as land managers, as
12 well as industry, you know, in a State like Alaska. So
13 these LCCs are largely funded by the Fish and Wildlife
14 Service, but there's, just within Alaska alone there's
15 about 130 different member organizations that are
16 engaged in these partnerships and that includes Federal
17 and State agencies, tribes, non-governmental
18 organizations, universities, kind of et cetera. A big
19 grab bag of folks.

20
21 So I was just going to share a little
22 bit now.

23
24 So again I'm -- Aleutian Bering Sea
25 Islands LCC is more where I'm based. So a lot more of
26 my work is related to kind of coastal things and marine
27 issues, so I was just going to share an example of one
28 project, you know, for your consideration as if it
29 might be maybe a model of having some discussions about
30 how climate change could impact subsistence resources
31 and subsistence communities.

32
33 So I'm just going to kind of go through
34 this process a little bit and hopefully this will give
35 you some food for thought. And if there's some
36 specific questions I can kind of answer, I will try to
37 do my best at that.

38
39 So this project I was going to mention,
40 we called it Promoting Coastal Resilience and
41 Adaptation in Arctic Alaska and essentially it was a
42 series of workshops that we held along the west coast
43 of Alaska to really try to bring together managers and
44 community leaders, researchers all to the same table
45 for a couple of days of focused thought on what are
46 some of the big challenges that are facing us all
47 collectively when it comes to some of the changes in
48 Alaska's coastal settings.

49
50

1 And this kind of idea grew out of three
2 of these LCCs, so my LCC, the Western Alaska LCC, and
3 the Arctic LCC. One of our key partners is the
4 Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, so their
5 regional Native non-profit for the Aleut people and
6 they heard about this idea and basically said hey, you
7 know, we can get some funding and they were successful
8 at getting that from BIA to basically expand what we
9 had thought of as doing one workshop in Nome and
10 expanded it to four workshops. So they were certainly
11 a key partner in all of this.

12
13 Other key partners in each of the kind
14 of hub communities where we organized these sessions,
15 we also had kind of local hosts that helped us identify
16 the -- you know, the topics that were most likely of
17 importance to folks there, but also some of the key
18 individuals that should really be involved. That we
19 should make sure we can get to these workshops so there
20 were definitely vital local partners involved.

21
22 And when it comes to things like
23 coastal change in Alaska and some of the stuff that I'm
24 sure folks are familiar with -- with, you know, coastal
25 erosion or things like ocean warming and things like
26 ocean acidification, you know, loss of sea ice during
27 times of the year that you'd typically have sea ice.
28 Certainly some of the changes in river systems that
29 might be, you know, affecting you guys as well all came
30 up in these settings.

31
32 And so it was those types of big things
33 that affect you whether you're, you know, a city like
34 Nome trying to manage your infrastructure or whether
35 you're a Refuge that's trying to understand how
36 saltwater intrusion might affect, you know, your
37 coastal estuaries. Whether you're a Tribe that's
38 trying to, you know, understand what are some of the
39 potential effects and risks that your subsistence
40 hunters face in the coming years. All of those people
41 were invited into these sessions and were able to share
42 their ideas.

43
44 And basically the project goal was
45 really to try to figure out how can sort of like the
46 research community -- how can the Federal or State
47 Agency managers -- how can we come together and help
48 share out what existing information there is to these
49 folks. But also just as importantly hear back from
50

1 them what are the things they really need. You know,
2 like some of the science questions and some of the
3 efforts that are going in these Regions are great, but
4 we really don't know to some degree if they're
5 answering the key questions that folks have there on
6 the ground. So that was kind of the thrust of what we
7 were trying to get at.

8
9 I mentioned that we did four of these
10 workshops.

11
12 The first one was in Nome in May.

13
14 The second one was in Unalaska. And we
15 actually invited the Kodiak Aleutians RAC to attend
16 that one. In fact, my LCC helped with travel funding
17 to get them to that session.

18
19 The third one was in Bristol Bay in
20 King Salmon and that was in September.

21
22 And then the final one we did just this
23 last December up in Kotzebue.

24
25 So four workshops.

26
27 We had about 200 folks participate.
28 Thirty-four different tribes and 14 different State and
29 Federal agencies. Sort of the breakdown of the folks
30 that attended. And, you know, sort of our workshop
31 approach was pretty simple, we would start by having,
32 you know, maybe the first half of a day or so with a
33 series of presentations. Again, topics that had been
34 identified locally as being of importance.

35
36 So we'd have people talk about climate
37 change or whether it was coastal erosion or ocean
38 acidification, whatever the folks wanted to hear about
39 and then we'd have some focused discussion and dialogue
40 over the next day or so about what are people already
41 doing to address these issues. Maybe what are some of
42 the key information sort of gaps that they have. And
43 then we carved out sort of the last piece of the second
44 day to really start talking about what are some ways
45 that, you know, we can help support sort of regional
46 networks of people that are trying to address these
47 issues.

48
49 So for example, would it make sense to,
50

1 you know, try and have several tribes collecting the
2 same data about coastal erosion or several tribes
3 collecting the same data about sort of like new sort of
4 novel species that are showing up in their Regions or
5 collecting information about sea ice, and if that does
6 make sense, how can we connect those efforts further to
7 sort of agencies or research that might be able to
8 support them. So that was kind of what a lot of that
9 last piece would be. Sort of this networking almost
10 from these workshops.

11
12 In terms of outcome, certainly there
13 was a ton of two-way information exchange. We were
14 able to, you know, bring in scientists and Agency folks
15 who've developed tools for, you know, doing erosion
16 monitoring or tools to -- you know, to look at sort of
17 how -- you know, how species shifts might happen. And
18 then so that was kind of a piece of it.

19
20 Another one that was really important
21 was really just to kind of do some networking between
22 folks. You know, we had a number of comments back
23 saying -- you know, from say Tribal leaders who were
24 like I've never seen, I think in Nome we had 12
25 agencies all in one room at the same time and they were
26 saying we've never seen that kind of thing.

27
28 And so agencies -- everything from like
29 Department of sort of Environmental Conservation or,
30 you know, sort of there's a FEMA State Depart -- or a
31 Alaska sort of equivalent of FEMA that attended that
32 one. And having those people sit at the same tables
33 alongside of Fish and Wildlife Service and Parks
34 Service and NOAA was just kind of something novel and
35 something that people valued.

36
37 Some of the other outcomes was we
38 really, you know, documented some of the stuff that
39 local communities are already doing to kind of
40 basically kind of chart their own course a little bit
41 as it comes to responding to some of these changes.
42 And so we're hoping to share some of that stuff out in
43 our project deliverable.

44
45 And I'm just transitioning now. I'll
46 wrap here shortly.

47
48 But to just to talk a little bit about
49 those deliverables is that essentially what we're
50

1 trying to put together is a handbook of sort of data,
2 information, and tools that local managers, community
3 leaders, community planner type folks would find useful
4 in trying to understand some of these threats coming
5 from climate change.

6
7 The compliment to that is to -- sort of
8 like these -- we're looking at these as sort of two
9 different handbooks almost. They'll be, you know, in
10 the same final document, but to try to under -- so the
11 first piece is trying to understand what are some of
12 the changes that we face.

13
14 And the second piece, that are what are
15 some of the resources out there. For example, like are
16 there funding processes that could help us monitor for
17 coastal erosion or are there funding processes that
18 could help us address, you know, concerns with our.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you there
21 for one second, Aaron?

22
23 MR. POE: Yeah. Please.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach wanted to
26 clarify something here.

27
28 Go ahead, Zach.

29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 Just by point of clarification, I
33 wanted to provide an opportunity for this Council to
34 telephonically over the phone meet Aaron. In our
35 October 2016 meeting, Tim Gervais, Member Gervais had
36 raised a question about whether or not there was any
37 information available on the effects of changes in sea
38 surface temperature, and correct me if I'm wrong, Tim,
39 and that was in the Gulf of Alaska where there was an
40 observation of a ten degree temperature change; is that
41 correct?

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. Around Kodiak
44 Island.

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: Kodiak Island. Thank
47 you. Thank you, Tim.

48
49 So that -- yeah, so an observed ten

50

1 degree temperature around Kodiak Island. And following
2 that point, the question was, you know, what would
3 those effects of those changes on subsistence resources
4 and having to draw the connection back to -- from the
5 RAC back to Aaron, over the past four years I've had
6 the privilege of working through Aaron through my role
7 on the Steering Committee of the Arctic LCC, our
8 neighboring LCC, and tried to help be an advocate for
9 using science to help address the concerns of
10 traditional knowledge holders, subsistence users, about
11 how can we understand better the effects of climate
12 change on subsistence users and with that information
13 advocate for resource management in a way on -- in this
14 case on Federal public lands that is response to the
15 changes that are being seen both by traditional
16 knowledge holders, subsistence users -- those around
17 the table -- and by researchers.

18
19 So that's the connection here.

20
21 And my hope is that through this
22 dialogue that if the Council is interested that through
23 working with Aaron and other members of the LCC network
24 that this becomes a means for sharing of information.
25 And like this initiative that Aaron was describing,
26 this coastal resilience project, if there were other
27 initiatives that would be of interest to this group
28 that this relationship might help to promote future
29 information exchange.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Aaron, we
34 have a lot of agenda here.....

35
36 MR. POE: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and I want to
39 shorten this up to real short and sweet.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want to know can
44 you, you know, for our fall meeting make a concise
45 document that we can look at, discuss a possible
46 project in our Region. But I don't have a lot of time
47 to go over the whole coastal erosion aspect of
48 previous.....

49
50

1 MR. POE: Yes.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do know that there
4 is probably -- what the question was -- and that
5 Council Member Gervais asked, did sea surface
6 temperatures or surface temp, water temperatures affect
7 fisheries. That's kind of the question the Council. I
8 do think that, you know, we may want to talk about a
9 project in our Region, but I don't have time for that
10 at this meeting.

11
12 I would prefer to have that with a
13 document in front of us. And with answering that
14 question in some way, shape or form, and also with a
15 possible proposal.

16
17 Can you respond.

18
19 MR. POE: Yes. Sure, Mr. Chair. And
20 so I could, first, I guess I would say so the products
21 from this project I was describing, those will be
22 available in the fall. So our finished product will be
23 available both online and hard copy and then also on a
24 data stick.

25
26 That specific question of the effects
27 of, you know, sort of water temperatures on fisheries
28 is the huge, you know, multi-million dollar that a lot
29 of folks are working on. I could come prepared in the
30 fall to try and -- and actually might, you know, bring
31 a colleague or something who's working on that question
32 more specifically, you know, if that would be of
33 interest to you guys and have them share out the latest
34 of what's known on that.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's
37 basically what your question was, Tim. And so if we
38 could -- you may not have to travel to a meeting, if
39 you could just call in, and if we had a -- that data
40 teased out and if you thought that there was a project
41 in our Region, we could discuss that. But that's
42 futuristic at this point.

43
44 MR. POE: Okay. Yeah. Absolutely. I
45 would be happy to return to you guys with that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And, what,
48 you want to state that on the record there, Zach.

49
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 For point of clarification, do we need a call for a
3 vote on that?

4
5 MR. KRON: (Shakes head negatively)

6
7 MR. STEVENSON: No, we do not, okay.
8 Thank you. I think we're good, Jack. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I think we're
11 good. I'm sorry I had to cut you down a little bit
12 there, but.....

13
14 MR. SPINDLER: Jack.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:I got the
17 overview -- Mike Spindler. But I got the overview of
18 where you were going with that.

19
20 Mike Spindler's going to step up to the
21 mic -- the microphone and speak also.

22
23 MR. POE: Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stand by.

26
27 MR. POE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Thanks, all.

29
30 MR. SPINDLER: I'll make this very
31 quick, Mr. Chair. You did express a desire to see a
32 document in front of you with an ongoing LCC project.
33 And so in my other life besides Refuge Manager, I'm the
34 U.S. Co-Chair of the Northwest Boreal LCC Steering
35 Committee.

36
37 Briefly, it's a similar LCC like Aaron
38 Poe was describing, but for the Boreal Forest area of
39 Alaska and Western Canada. So we extend from the limit
40 of tree growth near the Yukon Delta and Kotzebue all
41 the way east to the Northwest Territories in Canada.
42 We include the whole Yukon River Drainage.

43
44 We have about 30 partners.

45
46 We're equally divided between Canada
47 and Alaska. We have a Canada co-chair as well. So I
48 represent the Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges and a
49 lot of Alaska issues to the Steering Committee.

50

1 This is just an example of one product
2 that the Northwest Boreal was working with to help BLM
3 with this land planning project. And so if you look at
4 the map in front of you, it's just a modeling project
5 looking at important areas to connect between existing
6 conservation system units.

7
8 Just one example of the kind of tool
9 that scientists can provide groups like yourself or
10 groups like BLM that are working on lands plans. What
11 this means is that if climate changes quite a bit, it
12 gives space for the animals to move from the
13 established conservation units from one to another.
14 Those yellow areas on the map on the right are the --
15 what's called an enduring features climate envelope.
16 And that's big words for saying a place where the
17 animals can move if the climate changes.

18
19 So that's just real quickly and briefly
20 a project that Northwest Boreal worked on to work
21 closely with BLM on their land use plan.

22
23 Any questions.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions for Mike
26 Spindler.

27
28 Darrel.

29
30 MR. VENT: This one thing -- you know,
31 this climate change we've been noticing that our
32 habitat in our area is not -- they're not the same as
33 it was a long time ago. It changed because of this
34 warming. So we have different kind of shrubs and
35 everything versus where we notice that the population
36 of moose out toward the coast, they're having a lot
37 more increase and we're having decreases. So I just
38 kind of want that noted in there.

39
40 MR. SPINDLER: One thing if you look at
41 -- and this relates to your strong feelings about the
42 PL land withdrawal in the Corridor, if you connect the
43 area between Gates of the Arctic National Park and
44 Arctic Refuge with a small part of the Corridor, you're
45 actually connecting from all of Northern Yukon all the
46 way to the Bering Sea across the Brooks Range. And so
47 that gives a lot of space for animals to move if the
48 climate changes.

49
50

1 Likewise, if you connect the area
2 between Yukon Flats and Kanuti, including the
3 watersheds, you give a lot more space for animals to
4 adapt. If water temperatures rise fish can move
5 upstream to higher elevations and things like that.

6
7 That's the kind of product the LCC can
8 work on with groups like yourself and other agencies.
9 We're a group of -- like I said, about 30 partners.
10 Half are NGOs, non-government organizations, for
11 example, Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Conservation
12 Society. The others are government or academic.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I can
15 appreciate the forethought in this planning process on,
16 you know, what's going to happen if -- like that lady
17 was up here yesterday telling us that the brush grew up
18 so thick the caribou couldn't even travel in the Upper
19 East Fork of the Chandalar Drainage. And I hadn't
20 heard about that type of barrier through
21 shrubification.

22
23 So I appreciate this type of work
24 though.

25
26 Thanks, Mike.

27
28 And so we can go for a short break here
29 for about 15 minutes. We've got a lot of agenda.
30 We've got to back here at about 1:30 -- or correction --
31 - 3:35.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

38
39 MR. KRON: Okay. Mr. Chair, Member of
40 the Council, Zach made sure you had a copy of this.
41 And because of the press of the agenda I'm going to go
42 over very, very quickly.

43
44 The one page, the front page covers
45 some staffing changes that we wanted you to be aware
46 of. And I'm not going to mention any names, but again
47 there's been a little bit of change there.

48
49 And then quickly on the back page, on
50

1 non-rural policy the Board in the January meeting,
2 which Jack listened in on from teleconference, they
3 adopted a rural policy -- a non-rural determination
4 policy. And the next call for proposals to change
5 rural status for any communities anywhere in Alaska
6 will be announced with a call for during the fisheries
7 proposal cycle next year. So January of 2018.

8
9 And then quickly jumping down there to
10 the Fisheries Monitoring Program, the call for
11 proposals opened in late November. It closed the first
12 part of this week. So again we haven't, I haven't
13 gotten any updates on it all at this point. The
14 Regional Councils will receive information about the
15 ranked proposals this coming fall, when you meet this
16 fall.

17
18 And again there's more information
19 there, but that's all I've got for just summary given
20 the press of the agenda.

21
22 You can read the rest if you'd like.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does anybody
25 have questions for Tom on the OSM presentation.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't see any. So
30 thanks so much, Tom.

31
32 MR. KRON: Okay. Mr. Chair, the next
33 item on the agenda was to talk about the MOU between
34 the Board and the State. All the Councils reviewed a
35 draft at their fall meeting cycle last fall and those
36 comments have been incorporated.

37
38 Also, we've gotten comments in from the
39 State, from a number of the Advisory Committees and
40 those are being incorporated and addressed. And again
41 I'm not sure exactly what the status is at this time,
42 but the intent is to get all that stuff incorporated
43 into this draft.

44
45 The reception on the State side has
46 been a lot more positive than it was, you know, four or
47 five years ago. But again we're in process and we'll
48 keep you posted.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have been
4 encouraged by the Board of Game coming to the Federal
5 Subsistence Board and the seemingly willingness of the
6 State to move back towards working with the Federal
7 program again. It kind of wobbles in and out. It
8 wobbled way far away for a while with brief trains at
9 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in 2007, and now
10 the State is coming back. And we need to work
11 together. This is a co-manage -- and I'm hoping that
12 the State has finally realized Federal Subsistence
13 Management is not going away anytime soon, so we've got
14 to work together. And the closer we can work together
15 and -- that's why Stewart Cogswell's, you know, working
16 with the State. This is very important. So I'm real
17 happy to see that the State has been more congenial on
18 the MOU.

19
20 Go ahead, Tom.

21
22 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'll just
23 follow up on what you just commented on. At the
24 January Board of Fish or January Federal Subsistence
25 Board meeting we had both the chair of the Board of
26 Game and the vice-chair at the meeting, and they sat
27 through most of the first day. So they were there and
28 there was a lot of really good discussion, you know,
29 during the breaks around that meeting. But it was
30 obvious they were real interested and it was real
31 encouraging to see.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I was on
36 conference call. I didn't realize they were there. I
37 thought they stepped in and said something and then
38 took off. But I'm glad they were there watching. So
39 good. Glad to hear that.

40
41 Any final questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: OSM presentation.
46 Thanks a lot, Tom.

47
48 And so we're we.....

49
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Review of Alaska Native
2 Relations Policy.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. And.....

5
6 MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We -- oh, Hollis.
9 Hello Hollis.

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me. Pardon me,
12 Mr. Chair. We have Hollis to address that issue.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. There he is
15 right there. Yeah. Good to see you again, Hollis.

16
17 MR. TWITCHELL: Hi, Jack. It's been a
18 lot of years.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

21
22 MR. TWITCHELL: Jack and I worked
23 together on the Western Interior Council for about 15
24 years, so I know Jack and Ray very well from that
25 timeframe. It's been a long time. So if I can just
26 give my -- a little bit of introduction about who I am
27 and why I'm so happy to be here, that might be
28 enlightening for some of you.

29
30 My mother was a Sami reindeer herder.
31 She was born in Napaimiut, in the lower end of your
32 Region. My father is Ben Twitchell and he was born at
33 Flat. My grandparents were Adams Hollis Twitchell and
34 Irene Kochek (ph). They were reindeer herders. They
35 herded reindeer out of Flat until they mined through
36 the community of Flat and then moved the herd into the
37 Takotna Hills and Iditarod Hills. Between those
38 Drainages for a number of years until 1939, when they
39 sold their herd and when the Reindeer Act was passed at
40 that point.

41
42 Myself, I grew up in Takotna. As a
43 young boy for a number of years, and I consider this
44 particular region home in many ways, both family and
45 historically. I worked at Denali for 15 years with the
46 Subsistence Resource Commission as the Parks Cultural
47 and Subsistence Manager and that's how I got to know
48 Ray so well and Jack. So I'm very honored to be here
49 with you today and I really enjoyed all of your

50

1 comments and interactions and you're doing a fantastic
2 job. Very proud of you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the
5 compliment.

6
7 Introduce yourself for the record.
8 You've got to turn your mic on.

9
10 MS. BRYANT: I'd like to introduce
11 myself in the Native way.

12
13 (In Native)

14
15 My name is Joanne Bryant. My parents
16 are (Indiscernible) and Josephine Peter. My
17 grandparents are James and Maggie Gilbert. I am
18 originally from Arctic Village and my Tribe is Gwich'in
19 (Indiscernible).

20
21 I've been with Arctic National Wildlife
22 Refuge for the last 17 years and really enjoyed my job.
23 My duties entail working closely with the Tribe on many
24 different issues and also teach students environmental
25 education activities.

26
27 However, recently I got a new job and I
28 was hired as a Tribal Communication and Outreach
29 Specialist with External Affairs Refuges. My job
30 entails working closely with the tribes in the
31 communication and outreach capacity level throughout
32 the State and my main goal is to have an open
33 communication and close working relationship with the
34 tribes in the rural villages to meet the village and
35 Refuge mission.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Arctic Refuge?

38
39 MS. BRYANT: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Specific?

42
43 MS. BRYANT: Uh-huh, yeah. I was there
44 for 17 years. So now I work for External Affairs.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that would be
47 Statewide on Refuge lands?

48
49 MS. BRYANT: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good.

2

3 MS. BRYANT: So what I am sharing this
4 afternoon is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Draft Alaska
5 Native Relations Policy. And you all should have a
6 copy of that, there's two copies.

7

8 So one is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
9 Service National Native American Policy. This policy
10 was signed January of 2016 and applies the nation and
11 is specific to our relationship with Federally
12 recognized Tribe.

13

14 The second document is a draft of the
15 companion policy for Alaska. It is titled the U.S.
16 Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Native Relations
17 Policy. The two documents are meant to be side by
18 side. It is difficult to define terms and gain full
19 complex of the draft Alaska policy without the Native
20 American policy nearby to reference.

21

22 There are two reasons we need an Alaska
23 specific policy as companion to the Native American
24 policy.

25

26 One reason is because of subsistence.

27

28 MR. TWITCHELL: So this one would be
29 the national policy that's signed and completed. It
30 has the feather on the front. The one that's before
31 you for consideration is the one that's marked draft
32 across the top. That's the Alaska Native Relations
33 Policy.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They signed it at --
36 January 20 at 6:00 o'clock in the morning.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. TWITCHELL: It was a long day.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. TWITCHELL: And you do realize that
45 there were 16 tribes from across the nation involved in
46 drafting that particular document over two and a half
47 years. So this was tribal consultation at its best
48 from the very beginning of development of that 20-year
49 policy all the way through till the signing by the

50

1 director last January.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6 MS. BRYANT: So one reason is because
7 of the subsistence. Subsistence is a provision in the
8 Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, in the
9 Marine Mammal Protection Act, in the Migratory Bird
10 Treaty Act, and in the Endangered Species Act. Three
11 of the acts are specific to Alaska Native people and
12 therefore we have a need to describe responsibility to
13 use Fish and Wildlife Service employee under them.

13

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The second reason is because we are
directed by law to work with Native entities in
addition to working with the Tribal government. There
became a need to describe our relationship with Alaska
Native organization into Alaska Native Claim Settlement
Act Corporation (Alaska Native Corporation for short).
Example of Alaska Native organizations include the
Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, the Eskimo
Walrus Commission in the Regional Native Non-Profit
like Tanana Chief Conference and Association of Village
Council and CATG.

This draft Alaska Native Relations
Policy gives guidance to our employees for their
responsibilities and opportunity for relationship to
tribes, Alaska Native Organization, and Alaska Native
Corporation. The section directly correspond to the
Native American policy, including introduction in the
following section.

Two, sovereignty and government to
government relations.

Three, communication and relationship.

Four, resource management.

Five, culture/religion.

Six, law enforcement.

Seven, Tribal capacity building,
assistance, and funding.

Eight, implementation and monitoring.

1 Nine, scope and limitations.

2
3 Exhibit 1, definition.

4
5 Exhibit 2, overall responsibility.

6
7 Exhibit 3, authorities.

8
9 This draft Alaska Native Relation
10 Policy was developed over the last year with a team of
11 culturally and geographically balanced Tribal and
12 Alaska Native Corporation representative. The draft
13 Alaska Native Relation Policy will be published in the
14 Federal Register soon and open for public review. In
15 anticipation of the public comment period, we are
16 providing it to the Regional Advisory Council for your
17 information.

18
19 The Tribal and Alaska Native
20 Corporation consultation phase will be occurring during
21 approximately the same frame time of the public review.
22 We are not certain yet when the public comment period
23 will close as the date will be tied to the date of
24 publication in the Federal Register. To help in
25 planning, we suggest that comments be submitted by
26 April 26, 2017. But this date could change if there's
27 a delay in the Federal Register notice process.

28
29 Comments may be submitted to myself or
30 Crystal Leonetti. Their contact will -- our contact
31 info is out on the table. You may also give your
32 verbal feedback now and we can take notes. We are not
33 asking for Regional Advisory Council action. We wanted
34 to provide this to you for your information and
35 encourage subsistence hunters and fishers to read it
36 and provide us with any comments they may have.

37
38 So if you have any question, Hollis
39 will be happy to answer.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. TWITCHELL: I don't know about
44 that. But.....

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council, questions.

49
50

1 Darrel.

2
3 MR. VENT: You mentioned that these are
4 -- this is going to be put together with the input of
5 corporations. And I'd like to know who do you have
6 giving you this information here. Alaska Native
7 Organizations.
8

9 MR. TWITCHELL: Through the Chair. We
10 had a total of nine Tribal representatives that joined
11 up with Crystal Leonetti and two of the Tribal
12 representatives that were on the national plan. So we
13 had those two national plan representatives, which were
14 Patty Schwallenberg, Executive Director Chugach
15 Regional Resources Commission, and Will Micklin from
16 the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes.
17 They were representatives on the national plan. They
18 carried over into the Alaska plan.
19

20 They were joined by seven other Native
21 representatives from tribes around the State of Alaska.
22 From Wainwright. From Ruby, Don Honea. And Savoonga,
23 Ninilchik, King Cove, Dillingham, and Old Harbor. And
24 then of course Patty's from Anchorage. Those were the
25 Tribal representatives that joined up with four
26 Corporate or Native organization representatives.
27

28 So out of those four we had a
29 representative from Kwethluk, Incorporated. We also
30 had a representative from Doyon and representatives
31 from Sealaska. Doyon was Sara Obed and the -- there's
32 a representative from Yakatankwaan and that was Deborah
33 Leonoff. They were joined by nine Refuge employees,
34 including Crystal and myself, and then various
35 representatives from different branches of the Fish and
36 Wildlife Service.
37

38 We all worked together for a year and a
39 half. This what you have now is the third draft. It's
40 gone through several different iterations with input
41 from various times when we've went out to tribes and
42 did consulting with them on a one-on-one as this was
43 being developed. We also received comments from
44 corporations from around the State and Native
45 organizations.
46

47 The Native organizations that were most
48 involved were from TCC and AVCP, CATG. They've all had
49 an opportunity to look at this early on and have
50

1 commented initially to us. The team then took their
2 comments to develop this third draft which was reviewed
3 by Fish and Wildlife Service a week and a half ago.

4
5 MS. BRYANT: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

6
7 MR. TWITCHELL: A week and a half ago
8 it was surnamed coming out from an internal Fish and
9 Wildlife review. So we're just now beginning the
10 Tribal consultation, which it's going to be taken now
11 to tribes across the State, to Native corporations
12 across the State, and Native organizations and they'll
13 have an advance opportunity to look at this, supply
14 comments to us prior to it being published in the
15 Federal Register.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's pretty
18 clear.

19
20 Go ahead, Dennis.

21
22 MR. THOMAS: I thought that this was to
23 be set up without like Calista or Cook Inlet, that
24 these were not supposed to be involved with it. This
25 was supposed to be Tribal to Tribal, government to
26 government. AVCP is not a government and neither is
27 Calista and neither is Sealaska or any of the others.
28 So am I reading something wrong here or what's changed.

29
30 MR. TWITCHELL: No. You're absolutely
31 correct. If you look into the document in this plan,
32 it -- on page number four, it talks about a law that
33 was passed called the Consolidated Appropriations Act
34 of 2004. That particular Act directed the Secretary of
35 the Interior to ensure that Tribal Corporations -- not
36 Tribal Corporations, but village corporations, both
37 village and regional Corporations should be consulted
38 with as well as with tribes. However, there was a
39 different standard in terms of how and what we need to
40 consult with them on.

41
42 And I would have you review on page 16
43 of this document.

44
45 MR. THOMAS: I will review it. Now, my
46 wife spent lots of time getting this thing, when it
47 started years ago and this was one of the number one
48 things that came up, like I say, Calista, AVCP, and
49 these places were not tribes. That wasn't government

50

1 to government. So somehow or another they got it back
2 in there, I guess.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 2004 Ted Stevens
5 stuck that in there.

6
7 MR. THOMAS: Well, that was the -- but
8 then they were working on this so that was not involved
9 with it.

10
11 MR. TWITCHELL: There's a difference
12 level of requirements on how we consult with
13 corporations versus tribes. This in no way whatsoever
14 changes our trust responsibility with tribes, Federally
15 recognized tribes. And it describes that difference on
16 how we differentiate who and how we consult with when
17 you look at actions that have tribal implications and
18 actions that have ANCSA implications.

19
20 And so in there it describes in terms
21 of the tribes -- let's start with them first. It says
22 that any regulation, rulemaking policy, guidance,
23 legislative proposals, grant funding formula changes or
24 operational activity that may have a substantial effect
25 on a Tribe on matters including, but not limited to,
26 Tribal cultural practices, lands, resources or access
27 to traditional areas of cultural and religious
28 importance on Federally managed lands. The ability of
29 a Tribe to govern or provide services to its members, a
30 Tribe's formal relationship with the Service, and the
31 consideration of the Service's trust responsibility to
32 Indian Tribes. That's quite -- that has not changed.
33 That is what our duty and responsibilities are and that
34 has been in no way diminished whatsoever.

35
36 For Native Corporations this is what
37 the Secretary has directed us to do, including the
38 Federal Subsistence Program as well. It says actions
39 which have ANCSA implications. Any Service regulation,
40 rulemaking, policy, guidance, legislative proposals,
41 grant funding formula changes or operational activity
42 that may have a substantial direct effect on ANCSAs,
43 including any activity that may substantially affect
44 ANCSA land, waters or resources and any activity may
45 impact the ability of ANCSA to participate in Service
46 programs to which it qualifies.

47
48 There is a significant difference
49 between the two mandatory requirements on how we need
50

1 to consult with Federally recognized tribes versus how
2 we consult with corporations. So they are not really
3 the same. There's a very high standard bar that
4 requires us to be consulting with tribes as government
5 to government entities and we have trust
6 responsibilities that the Agency is required to uphold.
7
8

9 So that's kind of where we are making
10 the distinction and that comes down through a policy
11 that's been handed to us from the Secretary of the
12 Interior.
13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a Tribal
15 consultation for this Council with various proposals
16 and stuff. The corporations have had little
17 participation in commenting. Are you seeing that
18 staying, same kind of participation and commenting on
19 this draft from the corporations or are they
20 participating?
21

22 MR. TWITCHELL: They have an
23 opportunity to comment back to us just.....
24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are they?
26

27 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes. They.....
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.
30

31 MR. TWITCHELL: When this -- when the
32 National policy came out for consultation around the
33 State, it was put out to not only the tribes, all of
34 the Federally recognized tribes in Alaska, but also to
35 the corporations because of our Secretary orders
36 directive coming from the Appropriations Act, with the
37 distinctions between the two.
38

39 And so we did garnish an awful lot of
40 comments from corporate entities from around the State.
41

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Darrel's got
44 a question.
45

46 Darrel.
47

48 MR. VENT: Yes. Mine is concerning
49 that you're stating that there's tribes and
50

1 corporations. Well, what consists with tribes that is
2 conflicting to me is non-profit organizations. These
3 are not corporations, which is TCC and these other ones
4 that are -- you guys are -- are you guys getting any
5 information from these non-profit organizations
6 compared to tribes or are they understand as tribes or
7 recognized as tribes?

8
9 MR. TWITCHELL: They're not recognized
10 as tribes. However, there's situations where certain
11 tribes under agreement with an organization will allow
12 them to represent their interests. So when we have
13 situations like that -- like the Council of Athabascan
14 Presidents the CA, the Delta non-profit out there, then
15 only if the tribes have delegated their authority to
16 represent their interest to that entity in a formal
17 agreement would we consider those directions from that
18 entity.

19
20 So if the tribes do not want their
21 represent -- that representation, then they can
22 certainly pull out and that organization wouldn't have
23 that standing. Now, an example of how that worked
24 occurred up on Yukon Flats Refuge where there was a
25 land exchange being proposed in which Doyon wanted to
26 get a more conglomerated land entitlement for oil and
27 gas exploration and development. The tribes across the
28 Flats all submitted resolutions opposing that. The
29 Federal government, the Fish and Wildlife Service
30 ultimately gave deference to the tribes and denied that
31 land exchange through that formal process.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That answers
34 your question?

35
36 MR. VENT: Yes. One thing I wanted to
37 reflect on. How are you dealing with this land into
38 trust issues coming up.

39
40 MR. TWITCHELL: Through the Chair.
41 That's really an excellent question. I actually text
42 Crystal Leonetti, she's the Alaska Region Native
43 Liaison's person and it came up with the team. Other
44 Tribal representatives when working on this plan raised
45 that same question. We have not heard back from the
46 solicitors whether those lands put in trust would be
47 eligible under the OSM's Federal Subsistence Management
48 Programs for fish and wildlife opportunities. That
49 question has not been answered yet and it will need to
50

1 come from the solicitors.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you know if
4 there's a change in the solicitors with this
5 Administration or we're going to maintain the same
6 solicitors? I'm concerned who's going to make that
7 determination.

8

9 MR. TWITCHELL: That's way above my pay
10 grade.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. TWITCHELL: There are some really
15 strange things going on with this new Administration
16 and I'd be hesitant to.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Speculate.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. TWITCHELL:to suggest
23 anything.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Darrel's question
26 is what I really, really wanted to know is do the trust
27 lands fall under the Federal program and do they have a
28 priority for rural residents, which would be a
29 divergence away from State managing for a sport
30 interest over a subsistence rural priority.

31

32 They say it's a -- there's a
33 subsistence -- State subsistence law, but that's not
34 really the way this works.

35

36 We do have a lot of agenda here.

37

38 Any final questions and comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do feel that
43 everybody should read this document and make comments.
44 The website would be U.S. Fish and Wildlife website --
45 is where you would be able to comment to? Region 7
46 website?

47

48 MS. BRYANT: I just found the contact
49 here so I'll pass this around.

50

1
2 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You've got
3 it. Yeah. That would be great.
4

5 MS. BRYANT: Okay. (In Native)
6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
8 Appreciate it.
9

10 MR. TWITCHELL: Quyana.
11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. So we're
13 going to get that contact information.
14

15 Get to the Arctic National Park
16 Service. Marcy Okada's going to come and give us a
17 briefing. And I'm on the Gates of the Arctic
18 Subsistence Resource Commission and Marcy's our
19 coordinator.
20

21 Welcome, Marcy.
22

23 MS. OKADA: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
24 Good afternoon, Council Members. I think Zach had
25 handed out one of these to each of the Council Members.
26

27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Bear with me just a
29 moment, Marcy.
30

31 (Pause)
32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Marcy.
34

35 MS. OKADA: For the record, my name is
36 Marcy Okada. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for Gates
37 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. And I'm just
38 going to quickly go over this update with you. Feel
39 free to ask questions as you have them.
40

41 A new Federal regulation for dall sheep
42 hunting in Units 24A and B within Gates of the Arctic
43 National Park and Preserve requires Federal
44 registration permits to be issued to residents of
45 Wiseman, Bettles, and Evansville. This past season the
46 National Park Service issued ten permits in the
47 community of Wiseman and no permits were issued in
48 Bettles or Evansville.
49
50

1 Under the new regulation the Park
2 Service will be working with communities of Allakaket
3 and Alatna to collect sheep harvest information. So
4 we're not issuing permits to residents of Allakaket and
5 Alatna, but we will be working with those two
6 communities to collect sheep harvest information more
7 likely through the Tribal Council.

8
9 A Hughes subsistence harvest report has
10 been finalized. This was a National Park Service funded
11 project that was conducted by the Alaska Department of
12 Fish and Game Division of Subsistence and there's
13 copies of this report. Hughes is a resident zoned
14 community of Gates of the Arctic and it's the final
15 community to be surveyed. We try to collect more
16 recent harvest survey data, comprehensive harvest
17 survey information. That data is used to inform
18 entities such as the Federal Subsistence Board and the
19 Board of Game when it comes to regulations being
20 formalized.

21
22 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
23 Resource Commission met on November 15th, 2016 in
24 Fairbanks. The Commission provided comments on Arctic
25 and Western Region Board of Game proposals and received
26 updates from National Park Service Management Staff on
27 natural and cultural resources. We're working to
28 organize the next meeting which should be scheduled for
29 sometime this spring.

30
31 And then lastly I'm going to give you
32 an Ambler Mining District industrial access project
33 update. The Alaska Industrial Development and Export
34 Authority filed an application for a road right-of-way
35 across Gates of the Arctic National Preserve in
36 accordance with ANILCA 201, section 4. On July 29th,
37 2016 the National Park Service notified AIDEA. The
38 information in the application was sufficient and the
39 National Park Service would proceed with the permitting
40 process.

41
42 Although the Ambler Mining District
43 Industrial Access Project is for a road from the Dalton
44 Highway to the Mining District, the National Park
45 Service permitting process will only consider the
46 portion of the project which crosses the Kobuk River
47 unit within Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. The
48 permit application proposed two alternatives for
49 consideration. A northern route and a southern route

50

1 across the Preserve. Either section is about 20 to 22
2 miles.

3
4 National Park Service is now starting
5 to prepare an environmental and economic analysis which
6 will help decide which route the National Park Service
7 will recommend for the right-of-way.

8
9 The Bureau of Land Management is the
10 lead agency in preparation of an environmental impact
11 statement which will evaluate impacts of the entire
12 length of the road. The EIS process will include
13 public scoping meetings and the National Park Service
14 will consider information gathered in that process.

15
16 National Park Service will schedule
17 village consultation meetings for the EEA in the near
18 future and for more information, please contact our
19 superintendent, Greg Dudgeon.

20
21 Any questions.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions for Marcy.

24
25
26 Go ahead, Darrel.

27
28 MR. VENT: I noticed that you took some
29 surveys. Now this was also reflected by Pollock that,
30 you know, we traditionally used to come up to the area
31 to hunt the sheep. That was, you know, just a note
32 that -- you know, that we were -- you know, we did this
33 before. I'm sure some people do go up with friends
34 and, you know, hunt, but I don't think it is recorded,
35 you know, it's -- they don't have the data on that, so
36 I just let you know.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When the parks were
39 made in 1980, the Park Service established resident
40 zoned communities that had customary and traditional
41 use within the park. That was in the Park Legislation.

42
43
44 The Park Service dropped several
45 communities. They kind of missed Wiseman and they -- I
46 think there were some other communities that had to
47 petition the Park Service and said hold it. You forgot
48 us. We've hunted in the park -- I'm six -- I almost
49 can throw a rock and hit the park. So I don't know how
50

1 they missed us.

2
3 And they missed Huslia, but they --
4 Huslia didn't petition. And so you had to petition
5 early in the process. And so that happened in 1980,
6 '81 we were petitioning and the Park Service -- you
7 know, they -- well, that's what we did. So then we had
8 to get a hold of like our representatives, Stevens or
9 somebody -- and they were like no, no. Hold it.
10 That's not what the legislation says and so the
11 legislation was fresh in the minds of the delegation,
12 but Huslia got dropped through the cracks. That's
13 basically what happened.

14
15 I do know that there are relatives from
16 Hughes that Huslia people go up to Hughes. They go up
17 into the park. I don't think the Park Service is going
18 to get bent out of shape, but they just need to know
19 what kind of harvest is going on in the park. And the
20 harvest is important because it shows use of the
21 resource and so that's why this new regulation for dall
22 sheep -- this community harvest gathering collection
23 for Allakaket, Alatna was part of the proposal. It was
24 a Federal proposal last round.

25
26 And so I'm going to be -- I do know
27 that sheep were taken out of Allakaket and Alatna this
28 year. And I'm -- this is very important because when
29 proposals come before the Federal Subsistence Board
30 they have no idea. If there's no data they have no
31 idea and it's best if they know what is actually
32 occurring and so there is subsistence use. It's at
33 very low, low levels. Way within the sustainability of
34 the sheep population.

35
36 Other questions for Marcy on the
37 National Park Service Gates of the Arctic National
38 Park.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Thanks
43 so much, Marcy.

44
45 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair, I just want to
46 address Mr. Vent's question.

47
48 I know from past projects we included
49 Huslia because we recognize Hughes and Huslia are
50

1 sister communities and despite the fact that Huslia's
2 not a resident zoned community of Gates of the Arctic,
3 we have tried to include Huslia.

4
5 For instance, Dr. Annette Watson's
6 project, she's looking at trading routes between the
7 Upper Kobuk and the Koyukuk Region. And she has
8 included Huslia.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. I'm glad to
11 hear that. And my question would be has there been any
12 SRC members come back on our spring meeting in Wiseman,
13 you know, that was the email chain last week. Are we
14 still on for a meeting this spring?

15
16 MS. OKADA: So we are shooting for an
17 April meeting in Wiseman for our SRC meeting. It just
18 has to be posted in the Federal Register and we're
19 working on putting that notice out. There's been new
20 information from Washington, D.C. that kind of prolongs
21 that process and so we are working on advertising that
22 meeting.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did we get members
25 that agreed to meeting in Wiseman though?

26
27 MS. OKADA: Yes.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

30
31 MS. OKADA: There's been agreement.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
34 Thanks so much.

35
36 Zach is giving me sidebar things here.

37
38 Yes. We've addressed these proposals -
39 - Board of Game proposals. We've done that.

40
41 So we are coming down to BLM. Erin and
42 Bruce. Are you also going to be giving a report,
43 Bruce, I just see Erin on this thing here.

44
45 MR. SEPPI: (Nods affirmatively)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You should
48 both come up to the table at the same time in case we
49 get cross over. BLM is BLM.

50

1 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. That's why I put
2 the map on the front of this report.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

5
6 MS. JULIANUS: So this is the Central
7 Yukon Field Office Report, which everyone should have.

8
9
10 (Pause)

11
12 MS. JULIANUS: Okay. Yeah. For the
13 record, my name is Erin Julianus, Wildlife Biologist
14 for the BLM Central Yukon Field Office. And like I
15 said, I'll be giving the report for the Central Yukon
16 first and then Bruce will follow with the Anchorage
17 Field Office Report.

18
19 And just a recap of our boundary. I
20 know it's difficult because BLM lands are scattered all
21 over. The Central Yukon Field office includes all of
22 the BLM lands upriver essentially Kaltag and everything
23 below and including the Kuskokwim would be managed out
24 of the Anchorage Field Office.

25
26 So for planning, I know we've been
27 talking about the Central Yukon Resource Management
28 Plan a lot. We can certainly talk about it more if the
29 Council wishes, but I did want to follow up with just a
30 couple of things after Tim's presentation yesterday. I
31 have been trying at past RAC meetings to provide hard
32 copies of the various reports that we've been
33 publishing, scoping reports in the areas of critical
34 environmental concern report. These are all posted on
35 our website. But certainly if anyone wants hard
36 copies, please, please let me know.

37
38 Right now as Tim said we're in the
39 middle of public outreach meetings for these draft
40 alternative concepts. As of right now, we've gone to
41 Koyukuk, Galena, Tanana. We had a really, really good
42 meeting in Allakaket. We went to Ruby. And we were
43 scheduled to go to Anaktuvuk, but that meeting got
44 cancelled, I believe it's going to be rescheduled
45 though, I don't know the date on that. And then we
46 went to Lake Minchumina.

47
48 And the meetings that we have left in
49 this round of public meetings are -- Fairbanks will be
50

1 on the 27th, so I encourage everybody here in Fairbanks
2 to attend that meeting. And we'll be going to Venetie
3 and then Wiseman on March 2nd. Nenana on the 9th. And
4 then yeah, like I said, Anaktuvuk should be
5 rescheduled.

6
7 One thing that Tim didn't really -- I
8 don't think he touched on this but one thing that, you
9 know, the managers and, you know, kind of the higher
10 ups with this plan really are pushing for is government
11 to government consultation on the plan. And so I
12 encourage -- I know that they're -- I think they've --
13 they're really close to getting a signed agreement with
14 Allakaket and I think they're working on it with Ruby
15 as well. But certainly, you know, Galena. They'd be
16 really interested in establishing, you know, those
17 official government to government relationships.

18
19 Tim also did want me to mention that,
20 you know, with the RMP updates of course all of the
21 deadlines and things are posted online. But if there's
22 anything that I can do or he can do to report directly
23 to the, or communicate better with the Council as far
24 as deadlines, you know, please let me know.

25
26 That's it for planning.

27
28 For recreation we have our standard --
29 just our standard updates with the number of special
30 recreation permits we've issued over the past year.
31 Special recreation permits are for things like
32 commercial hunting guides or tour operators. We have a
33 number of tour operators going up and down the Dalton
34 Highway.

35
36 So this year the BLM -- or in 2016 the
37 BLM permitted 22 special recreation permits within the
38 Western Interior RAC Region. Of the 22 permits, 12 SRP
39 holders, special recreation permit holders are
40 commercial hunting guides and ten are tour operators.
41 Five of the guides are permitted to operate in or near
42 the Dalton Highway Corridor with sheep, moose, and
43 brown bear being their primary focus. And last year in
44 2016, of the five permitted guides, two actively hunted
45 sheep on BLM lands in GUA 2403. And then we have seven
46 that essentially operate outside the Corridor.

47
48 And it was a busy year at the visitor's
49 center up in Coldfoot, as it always is. Have visitor
50

1 stats in the report that you can review. And I think I
2 said this at the last meeting, but we've had a --
3 there's been a marked increase in winter travel and
4 winter visitors and tourists up the Dalton and so we're
5 kind of trying to adjust and address some of the
6 challenges associated with that.

7
8 For realty we have a number of course
9 ongoing right-of-way projects within the Utility
10 Corridor for fiber optic lines. And the details of
11 that are in the report.

12
13 The Bettles winter road right-of-way
14 grant will expire in 2018 and so we're doing an
15 environmental assessment right now to renew that right-
16 of-way. This Council had expressed concerns in the
17 past with, you know, maintaining access for Allakaket
18 and we've -- or Bettles and Allakaket, Evansville,
19 Alatna -- and I've made sure that those comments were
20 heard.

21
22 So I think the.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One moment. When I
25 was in Huslia when we were discussing that at the
26 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee there was people in
27 Huslia that were like oh, I was going to go get a Snow
28 Go and bring that in over that -- drive in over that
29 road. So there's a fairly wide range of people that
30 utilize that access road to go down the Koyukuk River
31 to -- because freight for a Snow Go is like
32 unbelievable to fly it into a village. So a lot of
33 people will buy Snow Gos in town. Get them driven up
34 with somebody's pickup and take them in on the Bettles
35 Road and then go down the river. Just supplementary to
36 that discussion.

37
38 Go ahead.

39
40 MS. JULIANUS: So for mining, like Tim
41 said yesterday we have 45 to 50 operations. Placer
42 mining operations primarily in the Central Yukon field
43 office, most of which are along the Dalton Highway.
44 And it seems like we're chronically losing Staff in the
45 mining program, so we lost one employee this past year
46 but we were able to hire another before the Federal
47 hiring freeze.

48
49 So right now, kind of in the winter,

50

1 early spring, we've gotten a number of plan revisions
2 that have been submitted to the BLM and we're doing
3 reviews associated with that before the 2017 summer
4 mining season.

5
6 For sand and gravel, permitting sand
7 and gravel is of course an ongoing workload in the
8 field office along the Dalton Highway, so this year DOT
9 is going to be resurfacing Dalton Highway -- the Dalton
10 Highway between Milepost 209 and 235. And there are
11 several mineral material site locations proposed for
12 use as part of this project.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That project is
15 actually occurring this summer?

16
17 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. Scheduled.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. I had heard
20 that the bid hadn't gone out on the project, so I'll
21 have to check on that one.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MS. JULIANUS: For wildlife, let's see.
26 This wasn't in the report, but I did want to mention
27 that we did not -- we were not able to complete the
28 Middle Fork moose trend count this due to the plan. I
29 was actually -- we had a number of meetings associated
30 with the plan scheduled right during that time period,
31 but we do intend to do it this year. And I think that
32 project was the only casualty of the plan as far as
33 like missed field work.

34
35 So -- but yeah. It was not.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was hardly any
38 snow anyways.

39
40 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You would have had a
43 bad survey.

44
45 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. I was able to go
46 out to the Koyukuk River's check station this fall.
47 And this was the second year that I've done that. And
48 spending time on the Lower River is really educational
49 for me and I really, really enjoy going out there.

50

1 I'll have to get out to Nowitna one of these years.

2

3 We continue to contribute to
4 InterAgency efforts to track dall sheep abundance in
5 the Central Brooks Range. Kind of our priority has
6 been coordinating with NPS, the Park Service, using the
7 distant sampling transect survey methodology, but we've
8 also been trying to help out with the State's minimum
9 count work. And so that was done in 2016 and we intend
10 to do it summer of 2017.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have sheep
13 data from that compiled yet or.....

14

15 MS. JULIANUS: No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I get that when
18 you receive it?

19

20 MS. JULIANUS: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have to work
23 with the State and the NPS on that data?

24

25 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. Uh-huh.
26 (Affirmative)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. But I'd like
29 to see that when you get that.

30

31 MS. JULIANUS: We also -- this wasn't
32 in the report, but we did complete a composition count
33 for the Ray Mountains and Hodzana caribou herds last
34 fall. This is the third year that we've done that and
35 I think we'll be able to do it -- we'll have enough
36 money to do it in 2017 as well.

37

38 And for subsis.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you get a
41 population for both of those then or.....

42

43 MS. JULIANUS: Yep. Uh-huh.
44 (Affirmative)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you -- can we get
47 that?

48

49 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. I didn't -- I

50

1 should have brought that with me. I think that we
2 counted I want to say 500 in the Hodzanas and 600 in
3 the Rays.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Only six?

6
7 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. Uh-huh.
8 (Affirmative)

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm.

11
12 MS. JULIANUS: I think we were missing
13 about 100 -- maybe 100 animals out of each herd.
14 But.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

17
18 MS. JULIANUS: And then subsistence
19 permits, I went up to Wiseman this past July and issued
20 Federal permits, and once again I'm always grateful for
21 100 percent reporting on that. And Marcy and I were
22 talking about hopefully coordinating our efforts this
23 next summer with permitting.

24
25 For ecology, this is the second year
26 that the BLM is doing an experimental herbicide
27 application on a small bird vetch infestation in a
28 closed gravel pit. And I think that -- I don't
29 remember, I think that that's going to go on one more
30 year. And then this is -- of course this treatment is
31 part of the Dalton Management Area integrated invasive
32 plant strategy plan environmental assessment, which was
33 signed in 2013.

34
35 For fisheries and hydrology, our
36 fisheries guys -- you know, a lot of their time is
37 spent associated with working on mine plans and
38 collecting data associated with water quality. In 2017
39 the Central Yukon Fisheries Staff will continue its
40 efforts to document habitat conditions on plaster mine
41 streams within the Dalton Highway Corridor by
42 monitoring water quality on Davis Creek and Gold Creek.

43
44
45 And then the only other thing I'll
46 mention is under wildfire. The Central Yukon Field
47 Office is considering potential revisions to the fire
48 management options near Coldfoot and Wiseman as part of
49 standard practice. And I think that right now, what I

50

1 was told was that right now the lands in the immediate
2 vicinity of Coldfoot and Wiseman are designated as full
3 and so there's a proposal to change that from full to
4 critical. So to give it the maximum protection under
5 the fire management options. And this revision would
6 affect BLM State and private lands.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to state on
9 that there's more and more people keep coming. And I'm
10 becoming more and more concerned about people
11 inadvertently causing wildfires. And we're in second
12 growth and our forest has grown fairly close to our
13 houses and stuff in Wiseman. So I've been cutting down
14 trees around my house, but I am still worried.

15
16 People are concerned when -- in 2005
17 there was a huge fire that was coming up the valley and
18 fire service stopped that at -- just at Cathedral
19 Mountain down river. But as more and more people come
20 in the summertime that becomes more and more of a
21 concern about that. And so I'm glad to hear that we're
22 under critical. I appreciate that.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. And I think with
27 that, I can maybe take questions before we go on to the
28 Anchorage report.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for
31 Central Yukon Field Office presentation.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think you covered
36 it pretty good there.

37
38 Go ahead, Bruce.

39
40 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, Members of the
41 Council. I'm Bruce Seppi with Anchorage Field Office
42 BLM. I'm a wildlife biologist and subsistence
43 coordinator for Anchorage Field Office.

44
45 I just wanted to touch a little bit on
46 our land use plan. We had talked about it earlier. As
47 you know, Bering Sea Western Interior is happening at
48 the same time as Central Yukon's plan, we're a little
49 bit ahead. Overall, we've got over 13 million acres of
50

1 BLM land, managed by BLM within that BSWI area and this
2 plan started in 2013. We originally had 180 days
3 scoping where we went out to the villages. Not every
4 village, but I believe 15 villages within the planning
5 area and got -- had public meetings and Tribal
6 consultations.

7
8 Then in 2014 we had an ACEC nomination
9 period that happened for 120 days. That was closed and
10 a report has been written, but we still continue to get
11 ACEC nominations in so -- and we're -- we allow that.
12 In fact, right up until the end of the plan and until
13 assigned, we'll still take ACEC nominations. Up to
14 this point we have I believe 18.

15
16 In the meantime, we've been working on
17 the alternatives. In 2015 we worked on the preliminary
18 alternatives and then actually took that out to some
19 communities for a 120-day public comment period. Had
20 open houses and tribal consultations. And then Staff
21 and cooperating agencies like Fish and Game and Fish
22 and Wildlife Service refined those alternatives at
23 meetings in Anchorage up until last fall, October 2016.

24
25
26 So for this upcoming year we plan to
27 draft the -- or to prepare a draft RMP and then take
28 that out to a 90-day public comment period where there
29 will be public meetings and Tribal consultations. And
30 also at the same time we'll do ANILCA .810 hearings
31 when we go out with the draft.

32
33 That requires a notice in the public
34 Federal Register. Right now that is closed. And that's
35 a wildcard. We don't know when that's going to open or
36 what's going to happen. It's likely going to delay it
37 but it will open eventually. And so right now this
38 year is when we plan to bring -- have that draft
39 together and bring it out to the public.

40
41 So we're working with a contractor.
42 Staff is not writing it directly, but we're heavily
43 involved with a contractor named AECOM and they're
44 helping actually write it and then we comment on it.
45 So it's this back and forth and it's a very good
46 relationship where Staff isn't buried in planning along
47 with all their other things. And AECOM writes the
48 document and then we go back and forth with edits on
49 it. So it helps keep us on track and allows Staff to
50

1 be involved with the planning and still do all the rest
2 of their job responsibilities.

3
4 So I'll leave it to the end if there's
5 specific BSWI plan questions, but that's really all
6 about it I have right now.

7
8 As far as Staff changes, our field
9 manager Alan Bittner has moved on. Went down to
10 Northern California or Redding, California as their
11 district manager. We have hired someone in his place
12 already, her name is Bonnie Million. She's going to be
13 up here March 6th. She's right now in Grants Pass,
14 Oregon, as a field manager and will be moving up here.
15 She has a lot of experience with the Park Service in
16 Alaska, so she's not completely new to Alaska. I don't
17 know her personally, but a lot of people on our Staff
18 have worked with her in the Park Service and so I'm
19 real excited to have her come on board and I'll be sure
20 to get her out here on the next meeting to introduce
21 you to her. She'll be here March 6th.

22
23 I was wondering, is Mark Spencer online
24 with BLM?

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there, Mark
27 Spencer?

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. SEPPI: Just was wondering. I had
32 briefly started talking about Donlin Gold and where
33 we're at with that and he was actually in a cooperative
34 meeting with them last week and he might have a little
35 bit better information. But right now, last winter we
36 went out to communities to public hearings and had --
37 with -- AECOM is also the contractor with Donlin Gold,
38 the lead agencies, the Corps of Engineers, and BLM and
39 Fish and Wildlife Services are cooperating agencies and
40 Fish and Game.

41
42 That draft is being worked on and
43 there's been a lot of changes in a lot of portions of
44 that. And AECOM or the Corps of Engineers hasn't let
45 BLM know whether they're going to move on with a new
46 draft and take it back out to the public or are they
47 going to just push on and go with a final. They
48 haven't told us that yet. And maybe Mark had that
49 information, but I don't, they've kept it very tight

50

1 and haven't told us anything.

2

3 At any rate, we are -- just this last
4 week we're having meetings with them, interAgency or
5 cooperative agency meetings with them, the first we've
6 had since the draft was out last winter. So I guess
7 it's just to stay tuned and see what happens with that.

8

9

10 If they go out with a draft or with a
11 new -- with a final on that, there's been a lot of
12 changes to it about how they treat water, various
13 things on barging and that sort of thing. Even changes
14 in some of the alternatives, proposed alternatives so I
15 would be surprised if they were able to go right to a
16 draft with all these -- a lot of changes. But we'll
17 just have to stay tuned because they're not telling us
18 either. And that's about where Donlin stands.

19

20 The only other thing is that the
21 Iditarod is starting very soon. Next March 4th there's
22 a ceremonial start in Anchorage and it starts downtown
23 Anchorage and ends up right at BLM Anchorage Field
24 Office, our 730 acre compound. Those -- all the
25 mushers from Iditarod come there and then they put
26 their dogs in the trucks and head to Fairbanks.

27

28 So if you happen to be in Anchorage and
29 want to see all the Iditarod dogs, come out to BLM
30 because every one of them will be there Saturday, March
31 4th.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. SEPPI: Any questions. That's all
36 I have.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Darrel, go
39 ahead.

40

41 MR. VENT: Yes. I just wanted to get
42 an idea of what you're talking about here. This
43 subject came up with Wayne with YRDFA and he did -- he
44 compiled some information from around our area, but I
45 don't know what happened, whether it was -- all the
46 information was not approved or -- I don't know what
47 was going on there. I don't know if you have
48 information on that.

49

50

1 MR. SEPPI: You'll have to clarify, Mr.
2 Vent. On our Land Use Plan or.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question would
5 be for Erin. It's actually -- he's referring to the
6 Huslia area.

7
8 MR. SEPPI: Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it would be the
11 Central Yukon RMP process. The ACEC probably
12 designation for around Huslia. You've reviewed those
13 ACECs that were all submitted. Do you recall the
14 Huslia one?

15
16 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. There were a
17 couple that I know YRDFA was working with the
18 communities on. And they're -- a lot of them -- well,
19 a couple of them were found to not meet the relevance
20 and importance criteria, which is like defined in
21 regulation as being these various specific set of
22 criteria. And so, you know, we as the resource folks
23 reviewing the nomination, we found that they weren't
24 going to fit like in the square box of this defined,
25 you know, relevance and importance criteria.

26
27 So I think that, you know, I don't know
28 where that's left -- or that was left as of now, but I
29 think that the BLM needs -- there was really detailed
30 information provided to YRDFA on these specific lands,
31 but it was kind of distilled into more general mapping
32 and so forth for us -- the information that we were
33 given.

34
35 And I think to really be able to
36 justify those -- you know, those nominations we need
37 like the specifics as opposed to the generalities. And
38 I think that that's what -- you know, I don't know
39 where.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know, I got
42 Laona Dewilde has sent a request to speak to this
43 Council and I see she's got something to do with an
44 ACEC. Do you want to come up to the mic, Laona because
45 I think we're back basically in the same category.

46
47 MR. VENT: Yes, Jack. That's Laona.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Laona.

50

1 MS. DEWILDE: My name is Laona Dewilde.
2 I grew up in Huslia or outside of Huslia. I'm studying
3 the decline of the salmon population on the Yukon and
4 Kuskokwim River on my PhD.

5
6 As far as the area of critical
7 environmental concern I was talking with Wayne Jenkins
8 about that. One of the things that we were talking
9 about is that it's hard for the people in the
10 communities to give exact specific location information
11 about their subsistence use, which if they did I think
12 this would meet the relevance and importance criteria
13 if they gave that information. But there's hesitance
14 to do that because that might be then given to the
15 public and that would interrupt competition for that
16 resource, it's just too much information and specific
17 about how and where they're getting this wild game.

18
19 I was saying maybe there could be some
20 kind of MOA between the Tribe and the Agency where they
21 could share specific information like that, but that's
22 kind of -- it's kept in like a doctor's notes behind
23 the actual memo. And from there the -- that specific
24 information will be behind the categories of land use.
25 That's a little bit more general so that the overall
26 public can't use that information to intrude on the
27 Tribe's resources.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that's an
30 excellent idea. And your plan is taking ACECs right up
31 to the end. Your plan is doing the same thing. I
32 think that the tribal consultation is mandated and I
33 feel that the BLM should go into tribal consultation on
34 specifics to the ACEC application because they feel
35 under cultural constraints and for fear of infringement
36 by that information being released that it will affect
37 the subsistence use abilities.

38
39 And so I do feel that you can tell Tim
40 that this Council, it is in agreement of the Council
41 that this Council feels that the BLM should open a
42 tribal consultation with a memorandum of understanding
43 with the tribe that those will be held confidential,
44 but so that you can discuss whether it meets the
45 criteria for an ACEC. That's what Laona is actually
46 requesting. And so I agree with that. I think you're
47 exactly right. That's the remedy for that issue.

48
49 Would that address what you would like?
50

1 MS. DEWILDE: Yeah. That was exactly.
2 Yeah.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so I feel
5 that there should be special accommodations for the
6 specific ACEC request.

7
8 So Erin.

9
10 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
11 think that that's the direction that it's heading.
12 It's just formalizing, you know, those arrangements.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it may not
15 have hit the criteria with the current application, but
16 the criteria could actually be hit if they actually
17 added additional information which is reluctantly --
18 not submitted.

19
20 So go ahead, Zach.

21
22 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 I know that this was -- Ms. Dewilde's comment was late
24 in the agenda, but I want to make certain that her
25 interests were read into the record.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It was very timely.
30 Her in the middle of this.

31
32 So any further comments, questions on
33 the two BLM presentations.

34
35 Darrel.

36
37 MR. VENT: I just need some
38 clarification. You know, they're trying to gather
39 information here and these lands, you know, like I'm
40 thinking down the road here with the land into trust.
41 That, you know, we haven't really understood what's
42 going on there and if we tie up everything and say this
43 is the areas of critical concern, you know, and it
44 comes back on us, we -- you know, we become the land
45 users, the resource managers or something and we get
46 our hands tied. Where do we -- are we able to come
47 back on this. That's what I'm worried about.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The ACECs are
50

1 strictly for the BLM lands. They're not the corp lands
2 or the tribal lands, they're strictly the BLM lands.
3 And so those have -- what the ACECs are -- they're
4 going to have certain restrictions on use and those no
5 mining or if it's a salmon habitat. We're talking
6 about salmon it could be no mining or some specific
7 thing on the BLM lands because of its area of critical
8 environmental concern.

9
10 It has nothing to do with tribal lands
11 or trust lands. Those are -- you're in control of
12 those lands. This is strictly about the BLM lands and
13 how those designations happened for areas that have
14 specific criteria for meeting areas of critical
15 concern.

16
17 MR. VENT: Okay. Then what I'm trying
18 to lead up to is there's -- we are in a complex
19 situation here. We're in a controlled use area that's
20 managed by the State. Okay. And we're on Federal
21 lands. And we have problems with predators.

22
23 Now, we can't address the issues if
24 it's only limited to what areas of critical concerns on
25 the BLM lands. I'm just wondering if it's going to tie
26 our hands up. I'm just, you know, trying to see down
27 the road here.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And ACEC would -- I
30 don't -- you know, like when they did that predator
31 program treatment area around Allakaket, the State
32 land, the BLM land, and the private properties were
33 eligible to be treated for predator control -- wolf
34 control. The Refuge lands did not allow that.

35
36 So I don't think an ACEC if it's for
37 salmon would preclude predator harv -- you know, if
38 there was a control program it would not -- it has to
39 be specific to what that critical -- area of critical
40 concern. It's about salmon, it's about salmon. It's
41 not about wolves, it's about salmon.

42
43 So that's -- you're worried that that's
44 going to be like this park where they won't be able to
45 do anything. That's not what an ACEC -- it's specific.

46
47
48 And you could get more defined with
49 that, Bruce, but I think I've.....
50

1 MR. SEPPI: I can. Yeah.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

4
5 MR. SEPPI: Well, I can't give you a
6 perfect definition of what an ACEC is, but I can tell
7 you that as a Staff member that has to go through this
8 relevance and importance criteria, a lot of these 20-
9 some nominations we got, a lot of them were just based
10 on a village's hunting and trapping areas.

11
12 And when I looked at that, I thought
13 yeah. Those are really important areas for those
14 villages. But when you run them through the land use
15 planning relevance and importance criteria, it comes
16 out really relevant, but the criteria we're stuck with,
17 it comes out as not important. Because something like
18 a moose or trapping areas are not unique. If there was
19 something that was unique just to this area, it would
20 be relevant and important.

21
22 So we're stuck with not being able to
23 take subsistence use areas and designate them as ACECs
24 because they don't fit that criteria. And I really
25 hate telling people their subsistence use areas aren't
26 important, but it's the importance criteria within the
27 confines of the land use planning.

28
29 So what we're doing with BSWI -- and
30 I'm not sure what Central Yukon is doing -- is we're
31 trying to -- outside of the ACEC nomination process
32 we're trying to recognize important subsistence areas.
33 And in the long run that will be more protective and
34 carry more weight than any of these ACECs will.

35
36 I think because of it's name, Area of
37 Critical Environmental Concern, people think nothing
38 can happen in there. And that couldn't be farther from
39 the truth. Mining is allowed. All of our resource
40 extraction is allowed. It just looks at the important
41 resources in there and tries to mitigate impacts. But
42 stuff still happens in those things. Don't be fooled
43 by that.

44
45 So, you know, we're -- by recognizing
46 important subsistence use areas is going to gain you a
47 heck of a lot more than an ACEC is.

48
49 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

2
3 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4
5 So Bruce, you're saying there's a
6 special designation specifically called critical
7 subsistence use areas?

8
9 MR. SEPPI: Well, it's something we --
10 I struggled with this as a Staff member to have all
11 these villages come in and say these are really -- we
12 nominate this area as an ACEC because this village
13 hunts and traps and gathers wood there and I'm thinking
14 yeah, that's exactly what we're looking for. But you
15 run it through the process and it doesn't qualify.

16
17 And so I'm going to management and
18 saying there's a problem here. You know, we're asking
19 for their nominations and then throwing it back at
20 everybody and saying well, it doesn't qualify under the
21 ACEC plan and so they're saying is there another
22 method. Is there another management criteria that
23 could look at outside of ACECs that would recognize the
24 subsistence use areas.

25
26 The other thing that people tell me is
27 well, under ANILCA you do an .810 analysis for
28 everything we do. These guides and outfitters, any
29 mining operation, anything we permit on the land has an
30 .810 analysis to talk about impacts to subsistence.
31 Yes, I do them. I do them for every NEPA action in the
32 district. And they look at impacts more than an ACEC
33 would.

34
35 So they say ANILCA already covers
36 subsistence conflicts and subsistence conservation
37 issues and it doesn't qualify in the ACEC process under
38 land use planning. So, you know, I don't think
39 everybody should get too wrapped up in ACEC nominations
40 and not be too afraid that they're being rejected
41 because of under subsistence proposals because there's
42 other ways to look at this.

43 And, you know, I feel for everyone how
44 they -- when they put these in and BLM kind of turns
45 their nose up at them because they say they're
46 subsistence use areas.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Laona.

49
50

1 MS. DEWILDE: But it's like mostly
2 salmon spawning habitat, or could you give a couple of
3 examples of what has been nominated?
4

5 MR. SEPPI: Yes. We've had some 20 of
6 them. And the ones that are going to be carried
7 forward that are both relevant and important, for
8 example, on the Big River, that sheefish spawning area,
9 that is a unique area that if something happened to
10 that, it would impact the entire Kuskokwim for
11 sheefish. That's unique and it's got to be protected.
12 Those sheefish don't spawn in very -- not just that
13 area, but very few areas. So there would be way more
14 impacts from just disturbing that area.
15

16 Also, cultural sites. Through the
17 cultural analysis sites that are graveyards, old
18 village sites, that sort of thing, we wouldn't allow
19 anything to happen into them. And anything that's
20 proposed for a cultural site would likely be moved
21 forward as an ACEC because it's a unique area that
22 needs to be protected.
23

24 ACECs aren't unique just to Alaska.
25 They're used on land use plans, on BLM lands throughout
26 the country. And often when there's areas that are
27 unique or even have public safety issues. There's an
28 ACEC that's a landfill in the Lower 48, believe it or
29 not. It's because it's dangerous to the public, so
30 they're keeping it out of -- from people getting into
31 it from the public. And that qualifies in the ACEC.
32

33 There are some areas down in the
34 Southeast where there was danger of glaciers blowing
35 out in the Haines Skagway area. There were proposals
36 for an ACEC just because they wanted to designate that
37 area as a public safety hazard. And that qualified as
38 an ACEC.
39

40 But when I brought it forward for
41 sheep, it didn't qualify, or for mountain goats --
42 excuse me -- it didn't qualify because mountain goats
43 aren't -- weren't unique.
44

45 Pretty frustrating process, but that's
46 how the ACEC program works.
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That
49 clarifies the ACEC.
50

1 So with this discussion, Laona has --
2 what you're thinking about, would it still qualify as
3 an ACEC because of its unique characteristic?
4

5 MS. DEWILDE: Well, I'm thinking about
6 salmon spawning habitat. Yeah. Definitely. And, you
7 know, like it goes back to fire management also, like
8 if we need -- we determine there's a fire -- it's not
9 listed as critical and maybe it's in limited
10 protection, that ACEC could then shift that into
11 critical so that -- I'm just speculating, but, you
12 know, like a big fire near a salmon spawning habitat
13 could impact the.....
14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah. It
16 changes a lot of the temperature of the water.
17

18 MR. SEPPI: Speaking of salmon, there's
19 an Anvik River ACEC. The Anvik River has something
20 like a million chum spawning in a year and the -- a
21 vast majority of the chum spawning habitat for the
22 Yukon River Drainage is in the Anvik. And so that will
23 qualify because if you do something to the Anvik and
24 take out that, you know, chum spawning river, you would
25 impact the entire watershed of the Yukon south of
26 there. So that's a good example.
27

28 But other salmon streams that aren't
29 really all that unique, they wouldn't qualify as easily
30 unless you had something that said that was, you know,
31 very unique and different from all the other spawning
32 streams.
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
35

36 Darrel.
37

38 MR. VENT: Now, would -- you know, we
39 always have a problem with our pikes in our area
40 because there's too many of them. We have whitefish
41 that comes out from the lakes in the springtime when
42 the water is high. And we've been having a problem
43 with predator fish. Now, would that be areas of
44 critical concern because they are overpopulating and
45 taking over the whitefish areas? Would that be
46 something that you guys would consider or is it only
47 with salmon species?
48

49 MR. SEPPI: Something like that
50

1 wouldn't be really good to nominate as an ACEC.
2 There's other ways to deal with that and wouldn't be an
3 ACEC.

4
5 Somebody help me out here how we would
6 deal with that situation, but, you know, that would be
7 kind of like predator control, predator fish more than
8 it would be a conservation issue.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Board of Fish and
11 Federal Subsistence Board tried to address some of that
12 issue, but the agencies are not going to have pike
13 control or anything like that.

14
15 MR. SEPPI: No.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's -- that
18 would not -- that's just a dead end street.

19
20 I would like BLM to work with Huslia
21 Tribe on the delineation of this, what Laona's really
22 talking about, behind closed doors and so that the
23 Tribe feels comfortable talking about that issue.
24 Because I do think that they probably do have a pretty
25 critical area.

26
27 MR. THOMAS: I've got a question here.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Dennis.

30
31 MR. THOMAS: In our area we've got an
32 awful lot of sheefish, too. So what's the big deal
33 here with you guys wanting a special place for them and
34 all this. I'm just trying to get an idea here.

35
36 MR. SEPPI: Yeah but they don't spawn
37 down by your village. Those fish that you have coming
38 past in the Kuskokwim River probably came up from a
39 very unique spawning area up on the Big River, way up
40 in the Kuskokwim Watershed and so if that area was
41 disturbed or destroyed you wouldn't have any sheefish
42 coming past Crooked Creek.

43
44 MR. THOMAS: Well, I don't -- it's not
45 right in Crooked Creek, as such it's in the river -- by
46 the Mauze (ph) River. You've got two, well, three
47 places there where it's really heavy. I've got these
48 films of these things jumping out of the water, getting
49 after the smolts and stuff.

50

1 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

2
3 MR. THOMAS: Following them down the
4 river.

5
6 MR. SEPPI: The mouth of the George
7 River I'm familiar is one place.....

8
9 MR. THOMAS: Well, that's one area.

10
11 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

12
13 MR. THOMAS: But then up the Holitna
14 was really heavy, too.

15
16 MR. SEPPI: Yeah, the Holitna.

17
18 MR. THOMAS: That's when I got the
19 films of this, you know.

20
21 MR. SEPPI: But those fish don't spawn
22 up there. They come there as adults. But the
23 important spawning areas are few and far between and so
24 if you were to disturb or destroy any of those areas,
25 the entire watershed would feel the impacts of that.

26
27 MR. THOMAS: So you say the sheefish
28 we've got, they aren't native to our area.

29
30 MR. SEPPI: Oh, they're native, of
31 course they are but they only spawn in very specific
32 areas.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's sheefish
35 that spawn on the Upper Koyukuk River that go to the
36 estuain areas of the Lower Yukon. There's sheefish
37 that spawn on the Upper Kobuk River that go all the way
38 down and live in Hotham Inlet, Kobuk Lake at Kotzebue.
39 Sheefish go -- whitefish and sheefish typically go to -
40 - are an anadromous fish, they go to the ocean and they
41 go all the way back up. So where they spawn -- the
42 Kobuk and -- on the Alatna and the Kobuk populations
43 are spawning in specific small little zones right where
44 they want to build the Ambler Road.

45
46 That can be a big problem for those
47 sheefish populations because a road with sportfishing
48 off of that road -- and don't let anybody ever tell you
49 that the Ambler Road will be closed because all

50

1 anybody's got to do is stake a mining claim over there
2 somewhere in the Kobuk and there are industrial access
3 and they can take their four-wheelers and their jet
4 boat and all their toys and go and kill stuff. And
5 that's what they did on the Dalton Highway before they
6 even had opened the Dalton Highway.

7
8 So don't let anybody ever mislead you
9 to believe that the Ambler Road will ever be closed
10 because it's easy. For 35 bucks you can stake a mining
11 claim. I looked it up. That's the current price. It
12 takes one mining claim. You're an industrial access.

13
14 So those sheefish populations on the
15 Kobuk and Koyukuk River are in jeopardy. Jeopardy
16 because of the Ambler Road proposal. So no.

17
18 The Big River is the same thing. The
19 Big River is where practically every sheefish in the
20 whole Kuskokwim goes to spawn. You go there in
21 October, the thing is -- you go to those spawning
22 areas, they're packed full of sheefish. They're up
23 there to spawn. They spawn when the ice is running.

24
25 Pollock wanted to talk about it.
26 Pollock knows a lot about sheefish on the Alatna River.

27
28 Go ahead, Pollock.

29
30 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 Around the Allakaket area there's
33 spawning grounds like up Alatna the sheefish spawn and
34 whitefish. And Henshaw Creek is salmon spawn. And up
35 Central Fork there's more salmon spawning. I'm always
36 concerned about large fires around there. Upper
37 Koyukuk River we're kind of in this remote areas and
38 some -- if not immediately around the village, then the
39 areas, the State and the Feds claim these are limited
40 areas. They let those fires burn like in a dry summer.
41 These fires get pretty large and they get smoky and
42 large fires have a lot of fallout and there could be
43 fallout over these spawning grounds. The elders think
44 that that fallout is harmful to the spawning grounds.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

1 Any final comments.

2
3 (No comments)

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.
6 Always enjoy all of the presentations and know what's
7 going on in the various resource aspects of each
8 management area.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. SEPPI: Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And thanks so much
15 for coming up also, Laona.

16
17 MS. DEWILDE: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You'll be working
20 with Huslia Tribe on that issue.

21
22 MS. DEWILDE: Yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Laona?

25
26 MS. DEWILDE: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You'll be working
29 with them, okay, that's just what I wanted to know.

30
31 Okay. So we're -- I think we've -- or
32 we're done with all the Agency reports that I know of.
33 And so we've moved through this agenda. We're down
34 to.....

35
36 Oh. Go ahead.

37
38 MR. SIMON: I forgot to tell you that
39 Laona is my relative, my niece from Huslia.

40
41 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Her brother
44 works right next to us. Lee. And he was at our
45 village Sunday, he came to church with us. So I know a
46 lot of -- there's more Dewildes than you can shake a
47 stick at.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I forget how many
2 kids they had, thirteen, or a lot of them.

3
4 MS. DEWILDE: Yeah.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there's -- we
9 need to confirm the fall 2017 meeting date and
10 location. We had proposed Galena -- and where's our --
11 do we have a calendar.

12
13 MR. STEVENSON: It's in our meeting
14 books.

15
16 MR. THOMAS: It's easy for you guys in
17 the Yukon to get there, just hop in the boat and away
18 you go.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. STEVENSON: It's right there, in
23 the meeting book.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I don't see one.

26
27 MR. STEVENSON: It's in the meeting
28 book.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I don't see one.

33
34 (Pause)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has everybody else
37 got their calendar in the back of their book there. My
38 book's a little thinner than your book.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. VENT: Someone has robbed some of
43 these books of some pages.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach's going to pull
46 me up a -- I have to be looking at a calendar.

47
48 MR. STEVENSON: It should be page 33 of
49 your meeting book.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I go to page
2 28 only.

3
4 MR. STEVENSON: Here it is right here
5 on my computer.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what was our
8 proposed date. We're on.....

9
10 MS. PELKOLA: October 10th and 11th.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 10th and 11th
13 Galena. So is that -- was that good for the Council
14 Members. That was our preliminary choice.

15
16 MR. THOMAS: How long does it take you
17 to drive down to Fairbanks from where you live?

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Six and a half
20 hours.

21
22 MR. THOMAS: Six and a half?

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yep.

25
26 MR. THOMAS: The road's that bad?

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a lot of
29 hills. It's not the Parks Highway, that's the Haul
30 Road.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Half gravel, half
35 paved. You've got lots of hills. Ask Tom about
36 driving the Haul Road. It's lot of fun.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. THOMAS: Lots of trucks, right?

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: So Mr. Chair -- Mr.
45 Chair -- Mr. Chair. Our calendar presently is showing
46 the Western Interior meeting scheduled for October 10
47 and 11, 2017 in Galena.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is that --
2 does 10th and 11th sound good to the Council still.
3 That was what we discussed in McGrath last fall.

4
5 Shirley.

6
7 MS. CLARK: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You weren't at our
10 meeting. Does the 10th and the 11th of October in
11 Galena sound good to you?

12
13 MS. CLARK: It should be okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
16 (Affirmative)

17
18 MS. CLARK: Why Galena. It just seems
19 so out of our way.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because this
24 Council.....

25
26 MS. CLARK: You might as well just come
27 to Grayling.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this Council
30 is.....

31
32 MR. THOMAS: Holy Cross, Grayling.

33
34 MS. CLARK: No. I have a bed and
35 breakfast in Grayling.

36
37 MR. THOMAS: Oh, okay.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You'll get.....

42
43 MR. THOMAS: Got enough beds for us?

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You'll get rich on
46 that one.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50

1 MR. THOMAS: Hey, come to Crooked
2 Creek. I'll put them up, too.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Erin.

7
8 MS. JULIANUS: Yep.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She just provided me
11 with a calendar. This Council several years ago, we
12 used to go to various communities. But this Council
13 has been -- the Office of Subsistence Management wanted
14 us to meet in hub communities so we typically have gone
15 between Aniak, McGrath, and Galena. But then we don't
16 get any, very much participation from Staff and so
17 we've been going -- the last couple of three years
18 we've been going to Fairbanks one and going to one of
19 our hub communities for the alternate.

20
21 Go ahead, Shirley.

22
23 MR. CLARK: Zach promised he would
24 suggest Hawaii.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you say that,
29 Zach?

30
31 MR. THOMAS: All on one plane that way.

32
33
34 MR. STEVENSON: That was not to be
35 mentioned on the record. No. I'm teasing. I'm
36 teasing.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're up for our
41 rural meeting. You know, we were on the Kuskokwim and
42 McGrath last fall, so we're going to go to the Yukon.
43 Because we manage these fisheries and we get into these
44 -- you know, we get into management problems.

45
46 When we've had Galena meetings we get
47 pretty good participation there and so I like to have
48 meetings where we're going to get participation. If
49 it's a real hot button issue in a specific community
50

1 like Holy Cross or some community that's really got a
2 real pressing issue, we can push for a cost analysis to
3 try and get that meeting there. But I don't have any
4 burning issues in any communities.

5
6 So Galena is -- I like to meet in
7 Galena because it's -- for one thing I lived in Galena
8 for two years and I like Galena and it's easy to get in
9 there because it's got a big runway and it's not --
10 doesn't have a runway on a hill like a lot of those
11 other villages down there. In Anvik and Ruby and
12 places like that, the weather can -- you can be stuck
13 there a week.

14
15 Where's your runway at in Grayling?

16
17 MS. CLARK: It's right down the river.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Well,
20 that makes it a little better. But I think this
21 meeting is good in Galena.

22
23 Other comments.

24
25 MR. VENT: Yeah. I just have one
26 comment about Galena. Just be aware that you can be
27 stuck there for four or five days possibly.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. VENT: So I remember from my last
32 experience, I know how that felt.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that is a
35 carrier issue. And so we're going to -- I would like
36 to have the meeting in Galena this fall, October 10th
37 and 11th, with the specific instruction that our
38 carriers will assure OSM that they will fly on those
39 dates. If they don't -- if ElSol can't get a guarantee
40 that they're going to fly on those dates, that they're
41 not going to cancel for arbitrary reasons, then don't.
42 Then ElSol should cancel that ticket and get a carrier
43 that will, Wright Air or whoever wants to do the
44 flying. But we've got to have participation.

45
46 Don lost this meeting because Ravn
47 wouldn't fly and that just is not acceptable. It's --
48 we've had a hard enough problem getting the Secretaries
49 of Interior to appoint our Council Members and then we
50

1 get into carriers not letting us fly. We need to be
2 able to have full participation at this meeting.

3
4 So I would like to see if OSM can make
5 stipulations with ElSol so that the carrier guarantees
6 the flight. If they don't want to do it, then don't
7 book the ticket. Ravn has been booking tickets and
8 they have no -- about a 50 percent chance of not
9 actually doing it, and that's getting intolerable.

10
11 MR. THOMAS: Who else flies in there.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wrights. There's a
14 lot of -- there's.....

15
16 MR. THOMAS: I never heard of them.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wright Air Service.

19
20 MR. THOMAS: Where do they fly out of?

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fairbanks.

23
24 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So how's Galena
27 sound 10 and 11.

28
29 MR. VENT: That sounds great to me.
30 Just one other comment. We normally get our per diem
31 here at the meetings and then we get a check like three
32 months later or four months later for the rest of the
33 per diem, how does that work.....

34
35 MS. PELKOLA: That's the way it works.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. It's taking a
38 while to get these per diem checks. They come out of
39 like Colorado and all this.

40
41 (Pause)

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 And responding to -- responding to --
46 responding to Mr. Vent's question, the protocol through
47 OSM is that typically our RAC members receive an
48 advanced per diem. We had one -- we had a new member
49 here at our meeting today who did not receive the

50

1 advanced per diem as a new member and will be receiving
2 her entire -- receiving the entire per diem upon the
3 return.

4
5 But ordinarily the protocol is that the
6 advanced per diem is provided at the beginning of the
7 meeting to assist with some of those travel-related
8 costs. And upon returning with those individuals that
9 have documented their participation at the meeting, the
10 payment notification is sent to our Denver office who
11 cuts the check, the check is then cut, sent back to our
12 Anchorage headquarters who confirms that the amount of
13 the per diem is consistent with the amount of time that
14 the RAC member was at the meeting and then the check is
15 mailed from Anchorage to the RAC member's address.

16
17 So that process takes a little bit of
18 time, but we attempt to move that forward as quickly as
19 we possibly can.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
24 clarification, Zach.

25
26 And so going around the room,
27 affirmative.....

28
29 MS. PELKOLA: Jack.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

32
33 MS. PELKOLA: Are we going to affirm
34 the meeting.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Affirm the meeting.
37 Yes.

38
39 Is it agreeable for Galena. Everybody
40 here is.....

41
42 (Council nods affirmatively)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see affirmative
45 from the Council Members that are present.

46
47 You had another comment, Jenny.

48
49 MS. PELKOLA: I just want to say before
50

1 you get there, I wish they would contact me so I can
2 get some food there.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Make a note
5 of that, Zach.

6
7 MS. PELKOLA: I think it's critical.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That Jenny wants to
10 be -- you're the Chief, And so you should inform the
11 Chief that you're coming in so she can work on things.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you can make a
16 notation of that.

17
18 And then our fall meeting -- is the
19 window open -- or correction, the spring meeting open -
20 - the window opens February 5, closes March 16. Are
21 some of these weeks been filled by other Regional
22 Councils, do we know.

23
24 MR. THOMAS: That's a year from now you
25 mean?

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be a year
28 from now. For the spring meeting.

29
30 MR. GERVAIS: I like the same exact
31 week.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This week is good
34 for me also. The 20 and 21 is a good.....

35
36 MR. THOMAS: Now, this is what.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would be.....

39
40 MR. THOMAS: This is October. Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We've
43 designated this one. We're talking about.....

44
45 MR. THOMAS: Right there. Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These dates that we
48 have. Is that exactly the same thing. Somehow the
49 dates come out exactly the way they are this year and
50

1 so I think that the 20 and 21st of February is good for
2 me. Is that good for the other Council Members.

3
4 MR. GERVAIS: Stand by, Jack. I don't
5 see how -- think that calendar is wrong.

6
7 MR. STEVENSON: I'm just double
8 checking it.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Is that 2018.

11
12 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah. That's wrong.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

15
16 MR. STEVENSON: That's wrong.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got a bad
19 calendar here.

20
21 MR. STEVENSON: It's not a bad.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What is.....

24
25 MR. GERVAIS: The 21st and 22nd.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So it would
28 be the 21st and 22nd.

29
30 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. The dates are ahead
31 of this one.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the 21st and
34 22nd, however they might fall of that week. And then
35 place.....

36
37 MR. STEVENSON: The 20 -- pardon me.
38 Pardon me, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair. Just to confirm, are
39 we looking at the dates -- that calendar in the meeting
40 is incorrect. We're looking at the dates of Tuesday,
41 February 21st, 2018 and Wednesday, February 21st.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

44
45 MR. STEVENSON:22nd of 2018.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Understood.

50

1 MR. THOMAS: Okay. So where -- where
2 is that one going to be.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then.....

5
6 MS. MAAS: So Tuesday, February 20th,
7 and Wednesday, 21st.

8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

10
11 MS. MAAS: You can look at that.

12
13 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Tuesday,
14 February 20th, and Wednesday, February 21st, of 2018;
15 is that correct?

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. I
18 don't have a calendar. So.....

19
20 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So then I'm thinking
23 that because we get more Staff participation when we
24 have an urban meeting like Fairbanks, the next meeting
25 should occur in Anchorage. Because that gives -- the
26 lower part of the Region people can go directly into
27 Anchorage, we can go directly down to Anchorage. We're
28 right with OSM. It saves them all that travel cost.
29 And then we get more agency participation. So how
30 about Anchorage on those dates.

31
32 And Salena doesn't have to travel
33 either.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. STEVENSON: I understand that
38 Shirley will be providing -- will be cooking for us for
39 that meeting; is that correct?

40
41 MS. CLARK: Which one.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: You. You will.

44
45 MR. GERVAIS: Anchorage.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anchorage. No.
48 We're kidding you.

49
50

1 MS. CLARK: Only in Hawaii.

2
3 (Laughter)

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Only in Hawaii. So
6 I think that's affirmed -- the dates. The tentative
7 dates.

8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Correct. 20th and 21st
10 of February 2018 in Anchorage.

11
12 MS. PELKOLA: So we travel on the 19th.

13
14
15 MR. STEVENSON: Correct.

16
17 MR. GERVAIS: Tuesday, Wednesday.

18
19 MR. STEVENSON: We'll be flying people
20 in on the 19th. The meetings will be on the 20th and
21 21st. And people will be returning home on the 22nd of
22 February.

23
24 And Shirley will not be cooking. I was
25 teasing.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So okay. Now we
28 have our schedule.

29
30 Closing comments of the Council. Were
31 at 5:23 and so we were supposed to go through 5:00
32 o'clock. I keep hearing people kick off the phone.

33
34 So we'll move around the room. We'll
35 start with Darrel because he didn't actually attend the
36 meeting and we started with Shirley on the opening
37 comments, so go ahead, Darrel, with your closing
38 comment. And we'll move around the room here.

39
40 MR. VENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41
42 As always, you know, it's always good
43 to get together and hash things out here, no matter
44 whether it's arguing about topics or trying to resolve
45 topics, it's just a matter of importance to us where
46 there's subsistence use.

47
48 And I am happy with, you know, the
49 outcome and I just wish that, you know, get more
50

1 information on some of the stuff in my area, but that's
2 to come later. I just want to thank everybody for
3 showing up and going to meetings.

4
5 And I guess it's kind of sad that we
6 didn't have our little PAN game or anything like during
7 the last meetings, but, you know, it all comes in good
8 time. It looks like we might have another extra player
9 over there, so I don't have to play with you guys this
10 time.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. VENT: But anyway, it's been good.
15 I'm sorry that I was, you know, late to the meetings
16 here, but it was not my fault. And my friend Don Honea
17 -- I just wish in the future that, you know, we resolve
18 these issues.

19
20 And thank you. It's been interesting.

21
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

24
25 Jenny.

26
27 MS. PELKOLA: I just want to thank you,
28 Jack, for doing such a good job as our leader. But I
29 do -- I did write some stuff down that when we talked
30 about birds, we were talking about eating this and that
31 and saving this and that, well, in our area, in my
32 family anyway we don't waste any part of the birds. We
33 eat that.

34
35 I did write transportation, but I think
36 that's sort of taken care of.

37
38 I think that all the RAC leadership,
39 you know, when we have important issues should keep --
40 should have a teleconference somehow to stay in tune
41 with each other. Because we had that one in Anchorage
42 where the whole RAC -- all the RACs met and that was
43 pretty good, but I think to continue whatever we did
44 there, the leadership should -- of the RAC should maybe
45 meet, or get that started anyway and need to get -- to
46 keep things going so when we get back together we don't
47 have to rehash whatever we talked about then.

48
49 And also I don't know if we have an
50

1 alternate Board Member. If there's a place for an
2 alternate Board Member in case something like -- well,
3 he would have -- Don Honea would have been notified.
4 But somehow. I don't know how he can work that in, but
5 just something to think about.

6
7 This next one is very important to me.
8 I know sometime we're talking and we get carried away
9 and we say words that I don't think we should say. I
10 think we need to watch our language because we have
11 people on the teleconference and we have maybe some
12 elders here that, I for one, I don't like to hear
13 language that's not really -- or should be at a
14 meeting.

15
16 And also I'm thinking about a working
17 lunch. We shouldn't go past 5:00 o'clock. And I just
18 want to encourage the Members to try to be on time, you
19 know, when we have a break, when Jack says 15 minutes,
20 make it 15. And usually what I do when I run a
21 meeting, I always say 10-minute break so they'll be
22 back. If you give them 15, it's ten minutes and then
23 give them a five-minute leeway so we'll be on time.

24
25 And I already -- I'd like to be
26 contacted before the next meeting in Galena.

27
28 Oh. And I have one more. When we were
29 talking about fish, about this hatchery fish, I noticed
30 last summer I got a couple different looking kind of
31 fish in my fish net and I -- it wasn't a wild fish and
32 somebody said I think that's hatchery fish. So I don't
33 even -- I should have taken a picture of it, but I
34 think we got two. And I don't know if anybody else
35 experienced that on the river, but it's just something
36 that I wanted to share.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know, with those
39 hatchery fish, a lot of times they the adipose fin.
40 That little, tiny fin on the top of the back. If it
41 doesn't have that, it's got a real high likelihood of
42 being a hatchery fish.

43
44 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. But it was
45 just.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think they put a
48 little pin in its nose, too. They put a little piece
49 of wire with a code on it.

50

1 MR. THOMAS: Hatchery fish.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's -- it can be
4 a hatch -- that's what most hatchery fish -- they'll
5 clip the adipose and they put a little.....

6

7 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:little piece of
10 wire in there that's got a code in it.

11

12 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's -- so if you
15 get those again, look to see if it does have a missing
16 adipose.

17

18 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. Okay. I'll watch
19 for it next summer.

20

21 But anyway, I just wanted to thank you
22 again. And I thought this was a very good meeting.
23 Some of the reports do get a little long and I think
24 maybe we should put a time limit on it for -- just for
25 -- I know there's -- I know there's some that we have
26 to really hash out, but I think sometimes we just go
27 around in circles. We need to listen to what somebody
28 else said and not repeat the whole thing over and over.
29 That's why I think a lot of times I'm listening, but
30 then I'm -- seems like I already heard what was said.

31

32 So I just want to thank all the Staff
33 that was here. Thank you for your reports.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
36 Jenny.

37

38 Jenny's always trying to clean up our
39 operation and I really appreciate her comments and
40 basically she gives us a report card on.....

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And some meetings I
45 haven't done so well.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm glad that I

50

1 did better this time mostly.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. THOMAS: Jenny, I don't think I'd
6 want to work for you.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

11

12 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you.

13

14 First of all, I'd like to thank all the
15 agencies that were here. Boy, it really, you know,
16 makes us feel good to go home with a lot of information
17 that we get here at this RAC meeting.

18

19 And I'd like to thank Jack for, you
20 know, not hesitating to decline being Chair. You know,
21 I've experienced where we get a lot of turnover in our
22 Chiefs or mayors and with like that, things, business
23 don't run quite as good. You know, we've got to have
24 consistent leadership. And, you know, Jack -- and I
25 know Darrel is going to -- doing a good job already.
26 Jenny has been there before. And, you know, with the
27 leadership being consistent year after year, you know,
28 it just makes for a good organization.

29

30 MR. THOMAS: It's called continuity.

31

32 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Continuity or
33 whatever. You know, I'm not -- I've got to hunt the
34 dictionary to find all these big words.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. ALEXIE: But at any rate, you know,
39 I really learned a lot from you, Jack, and I thank you
40 for stepping up to the plate to protect -- really
41 protect us. Boy, you're just a magnificent chairperson
42 for doing that. And, you know, it's just protecting
43 our way of life.

44

45 And thank the Board for really
46 participating in what we're doing. You know, my good
47 friend Don Honea -- he's -- you know, I know he's
48 kicking himself right now for, you know, and it's not
49 his fault.

50

1 You know, I always tell people, you
2 want to fly an adventurous trip, you fly with Ravn. I
3 tell people that.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. ALEXIE: You're laughing. You'll
8 have an adventurous trip. It took me six hours to come
9 here. Six-hour layover in Galena. Galena is the hub,
10 my gosh, you know. And I got to spend there -- I get
11 there in a 1900, a big plane, right, I get to Galena,
12 they put me on a little Navajo.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. ALEXIE: What's that, you know.
17 And they traded places. They put me in a Navajo.
18 Dropped me back down to riding the little Navajo. As
19 long as I'm here, I don't really care how I fly, you
20 know. But the idea of that being done to me, you know,
21 it's -- I mean that's not the only time they do that.
22 But, you know, it's an adventurous trip flying with
23 Ravn. You don't know where you're going to wind up.
24 How long you're going to sit there. I don't want to
25 carry -- but at any rate, being on the Board now for
26 two years now, the first year I was kind of hesitant,
27 but I'm coming up now because of the subsistence issue.
28 We've got to stand firm in our -- or stand for our
29 subsistence way of life. Traditional way of life.
30 Protecting it.

31
32 And I'd just like to thank you for
33 stepping up there, Jack. I appreciate that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate those
36 kind words, Fred.

37
38 MR. THOMAS: Again everybody's thanking
39 these people for coming.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your mic on
42 there.

43
44 MR. THOMAS: Oh. And giving a
45 presentation and stuff. I think that's really good,
46 too. You spend two days down here to get up and talk
47 for 15 minutes, you know, you've got a lot of patience.
48 You're doing a good -- I don't see anybody getting too
49 upset either, you know, so you did a very good job and
50

1 I thank you much.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Dennis.

4

5

6

MR. VENT: Yeah. Fred, I think I got you beat there on that six-hours, I had like five days, so I've got you beat by a little bit there.

7

8

9

REPORTER: Give it up Darrel.

10

11

(Laughter)

12

13

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to start off by thanking Jack. I'm just always impressed by your breadth of knowledge on the issues and your willingness to handle almost all of the agenda items with equal amount of enthusiasm and pushing forward and working through. I think it's a job that none of the other Council Members is jealous of, we're glad that you're doing it and that you're doing a good job of it.

24

25

(Laughter)

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

MR. GERVAIS: I would like to make a special accommodation or special acknowledgment of Ray showing up. Quite stunning how dedicated he is to come and participate in the meeting with a wheelchair and with his lagging health and stuff, so I hope he can stay active with the RAC. He really has a -- just a wealth of knowledge about all this historical subsistence events and area about that Upper Kuskokwim that will be irreplaceable. So hope he stays active in what we're doing and I wish him good health in the present time.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

I'd like to thank all the agencies for working with us. I mean we're just a bunch of people from various places and we only know what we know. And maybe Jack -- he knows all the protocol, but us other members, we don't know all the statutes and the history on stuff, so we appreciate your patience with our partial knowledge on what all these different programs and statutes are and sometimes we get into pushing for a certain change or something when we don't really understand what the statute is or what the history on it is.

50

1 I'd like to thank all the RAC Members
2 for their work in coming here. I know everybody
3 basically gives up a week of their life to come to each
4 meeting. There's always something else that could be
5 getting done. But I certainly enjoyed hearing about
6 your different subsistence knowledge from your areas
7 and from people -- relaying information from people
8 within your village and stuff so it's real helpful for
9 us as a Council and me individually to get the -- a
10 better generalization of what the big picture is.

11
12 And I'd also like to thank Zach for
13 working hard. He -- just for me personally I know he
14 made a lot of extra efforts on travel and getting me
15 some information on fishery stuff. And we had some
16 incidents where the RAC was saying oh, we need this and
17 we need that and then Zach's trying to like work within
18 the confines of the program and his resources.

19
20 And so he really has a difficult job,
21 along -- as well as with Jack having a difficult job.
22 Zach's trying to be the bridge between the Council
23 Members and the Office of Subsistence Management. So
24 that's a difficult job, too, that I'm not jealous of.
25 So thanks for performing it well and maintaining a good
26 attitude about it. It's certainly appreciated.

27
28 And I wish everybody good travel.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much, Tim.

31
32
33 Pollock.

34
35 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 First of all, I'd like to welcome the
38 new member. You know, Robert Walker was with us for
39 many years and Shirley's just from the same area, so
40 that's good. She has a lot of experience and she's
41 been on different boards and that's good for this
42 Board.

43
44 I'd like to congratulate Darrel on his
45 coming to be a vice-chair. He's young. He could take
46 it.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50

1 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Zach and Jack
2 for being, just for being our good leaders. And thank
3 all the different agencies for making good report. But
4 remember some of your reports are kind of long and next
5 time kind of highlight it. That would be quicker.

6
7 I remember McGrath meeting, we stayed
8 there till after 6:00. Went over about an hour and a
9 half. But right now I'm looking at my watch, it's
10 5:30. So Jack is doing better.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. SIMON: Yeah. In McGrath meeting,
15 I -- after the meeting I told -- I said that this
16 agenda says we were supposed to be done by 5:00 and
17 it's after 6:00. I told Zach and Jack and they're
18 doing much better now.

19
20 I also would like to thank Jack for
21 hanging in there for many years. And he seems to
22 understand everything. He knows everyone. He knows
23 all the different agencies. So he's doing a good job
24 for us.

25
26 And in conclusion, I'd like to say that
27 I'm going to miss Ray. It looks like he's not feeling
28 too strong, but surprisingly, you know, he sits down
29 and puts his head down and maybe he's sleeping or
30 something, Jack taps him and says, hey, Ray, you've got
31 comments, oh, yeah. He's just right away he wake up
32 and he'd just know what we were talking about and make
33 good comments.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. SIMON: Because he lived
38 subsistence lifestyle around McGrath all his life and
39 he knows all the different agencies. He's been on
40 different boards, school board, so he's a good man.
41 But he's going to be 80 now, so he's got to be -- but
42 he was a good member, he is a good member. I hope he
43 continues. I hope he gets stronger and comes back
44 again.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for all those
49 kind words. And I do appreciate Ray. Ray was the
50

1 first Chair of this Council, 1993 he was the first
2 chair.

3
4 Shirley.

5
6 MS. CLARK: Thank you. I'm still up in
7 the air about whether I'm happy I'm here or not.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MS. CLARK: One of the reasons I wanted
12 to be on the Board was so I could get away from
13 Grayling and my four jobs and get people used to me not
14 being there all the time. So, you know, they're always
15 happy to see me come home. But, you know.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MS. CLARK: But I learned a lot. It
20 was interesting. You know, I -- and I'm glad I'm on
21 the subsistence side this time.

22
23 And I wanted to commend Zach. He works
24 very hard and is very caring. The last time I went
25 through Aniak we were on weather cold so I called him
26 immediately and said we're on weather hold, his first
27 words were are you warm and are you safe. And I wanted
28 to say no, I'm cold and I'm on the tundra, I need a
29 Black Hawk.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. CLARK: But I knew that would have
34 really made him nuts. So I just said well, yeah.

35
36 But otherwise I think I like it. And
37 as I get to know you more, I'll talk more. But I've
38 always been kind of shy.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MS. CLARK: And thank you. You're a
43 very good Chair. So I feel like I've stepped into a
44 bunch of nice people.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we appreciate
47 your taking that seat for that GASH area. You're doing
48 real well for your first meeting and you're speaking
49 quite a bit and so I'm not having to pry any
50

1 information out of you. I appreciate that.

2

3 I appreciate all these Council Members
4 speaking up when -- for their areas, you know. When it
5 comes to a location I start looking towards the persons
6 that have that expertise in that area because that's
7 what this Council's all about, is representing the
8 other communities in that area.

9

10 I really appreciate the agencies
11 sitting through these long meetings. I appreciate the
12 public coming to speak to the Council. I really
13 appreciated PJ coming and passionately speaking about
14 that RMP process.

15

16 I really appreciated Ray. He's a real
17 trooper. I mean he's had some real problems on this
18 trip, but he told me he would still like to
19 participate. He doesn't want to give up. Because he
20 knows he has a lot of important information that this
21 Council can use.

22

23 And so I appreciate all of the State
24 participation, they hung out on the phone. They
25 toughed it out. Gave us all -- listened to our ideas.
26 Sometimes, you know, we're talking and talking and
27 pretty soon they -- some of our ideas start happening
28 with the State. We don't have to really leverage them.
29 Like that harvest mortality and with beach seining.
30 You know, I think they're really listening to that
31 stuff. So I do appreciate OSM support.

32

33 Zach is doing a real good job. His
34 first year. He's coming up to speed. He's got passion
35 for subsistence. He comes out of that NANA region and
36 there's real subsistence up there, just like there is
37 in the rest of rural Alaska. So Zach is doing a real
38 good job.

39

40 Some of this thing is out of his
41 control, I mean out of his hands. He can't control the
42 flights. He can't control some of these crazy
43 regulatory processes that get thrown in his lap.

44

45 And so that's just -- but I do feel
46 that Carl Johnson, you know, he's -- well, he should
47 move, go down there to Washington, D.C. again and cut
48 through some of that red tape. He's done that before.
49 He's actually an attorney. And so he needs to go back

50

1 down there and start working with this new
2 administration on cutting some of this red tape. Trump
3 said he was going to cut red tape. Well, let's cut
4 some here, I want to hear some cutting.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- snip. So I
9 think that we had a good meeting. We got all of our
10 agenda done and we had a lot of good comments.

11
12 And have a great trip and we'll see you
13 at the next one. Thank you.

14
15 MR. VENT: Thank you, Jack.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Call for
18 motion to adjourn.

19
20 MR. VENT: Make a motion to adjourn.

21
22 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion and second.
25 Those in favor of adjournment, signify by saying aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the
15 22nd day of February 2017 at Fairbanks, Alaska;

16
17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd
27 day of March 2017.

28
29
30
31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/18
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